

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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PFLP'S HABASH COMMENTS ON WEST'S REACTION TO AFGHANISTAN

AU081110 Sofia BTA in English 0815 GMT 8 Feb 80 AU

["Interview G. Habash"--BTA heading]

[Text] Sofia, February 8 (BTA)--Mr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was interviewed by the BTA correspondent in Algeria, Mr Nacho Khalachev. He analyzed in the interview the situation in the Arab world. In connection with the latest meeting of As-Sadat and Begin Mr Habash said:

"It is clear for us that the situation in the Middle East and the Arab world was regarded from the viewpoint of ensuring imperialist rule in the area. In this light was discussed the issue of Iran and Afghanistan. This means for us that Begin and As-Sadat have considered the ways of hampering the development of Iranian Revolution, the way to strike it a blow."

Mr Habash maintained that the chief target of the campaign conducted by the West against Soviet aid to Afghanistan is to conceal the aggressive plans of imperialism aimed against the peoples of the Arab world and the Near East, as well as to mask the goals of the Camp David accords and their aggressive intents towards the Iranian Revolution." In the second place, the U.S. imperialism is trying to shield with this campaign its military build-up in the area. And in the third place, the American plans for Afghanistan are an inseparable part of the aggressive plans of imperialism on the international scale", said he.

"The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine makes a clear difference between friends and foes. The interference of the reactionary imperialist forces is an aggression. The presence of the friendly Soviet forces is an expression of solidarity with the people who rose against the aggressive American plans. We highly value the Soviet help rendered to Afghanistan. We believe that the rising Third World people will always remember the help rendered to them by the Soviet Union in their struggle against imperialism", continued the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

On China's role in the Afghan developments Mr Habash said: "It is sufficient to note that, unfortunately, the Chinese leadership struck in alliance with the American imperialism--the enemy of the peoples. Moreover, China is trying to support the counterrevolutionary forces and the reactionary regimes, to support imperialism in the escalation of its aggressiveness against the Afghan people and the awakening people of the Third World".

Dwelling on the Palestinian issue Mr Habash pointed out that As-Sadat's latest move is a new danger for the Palestinian people. Mr Habash stated that the Palestinian people's masses, who utterly reject the idea of 'autonomy' and have proved this with two years of severe struggle, will make impossible the realization of the latest provocation of the Egyptian president.

VOP ATTACKS BEGIN'S PLEDGE TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

NC091802 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1535 GMT
9 Feb 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Menahem Begin has once again raised his traditional slogan about Lebanon--his readiness to protect the Christians in Lebanon wherever they are, in the north or south.

What draws our attention here is the fact that none of the isolationist leaders who claim to represent the Christians in the country as well as defend freedom, dignity and independence has made an effort to announce that he does not need Begin's help or protection. Instead, we have noticed that Begin's statement has strengthened the voice of these people and they are impatiently awaiting the go-ahead to start setting fire to the country.

It is no longer necessary at this point to refute Begin's false claims about the Christians in Lebanon. What these people have suffered over the years because of Begin and his myrmidons, whether in the north or south, is proof enough. However, it seems that the time has come for those who carry the banner of Christianity in Lebanon and those who falsely claim to carry arms to defend it to realize that the Lebanese masses no longer understand this disgraceful clamor. This is especially true since the one who is raising the banner of the Lebanese Christians at home is Bashir al-Jumayyil, the person responsible for the famous Ihdin massacre. And the one who is raising it abroad is Menahem Begin, the person responsible for the Tyre massacres in which the Christians were the first to pay the price with their lives and churches.

Menahem Begin raises the banner of defending the Christians in Lebanon from the same premise from which As-Sadat raises the banner of defending Islam in Iran, for example. Everyone knows that like Islam, Christianity will remain in good shape if the hated Zionist hand keeps away from it and the lame attempts at exploitation--in which the Zionist enemy excels and which it uses as a cover for committing all its crimes in Lebanon--ends.

Menahem Begin is the advocate of the theory of "let us fight in defense of Israel to the last drop of Lebanese blood." He found some people to turn this slogan into reality. They are the leaders of the isolationist tribes which trade with the Lebanese blood, Christian or otherwise. The Lebanese masses have undoubtedly seen through this theory, not only through their understanding of the advantages which Israel achieves by starting a conflagration in Lebanon but also through their observation of the Israeli attitude toward the Lebanese crisis. The Lebanese masses see the Zionist leaders using their agents to fabricate clashes with the Syrians, the Palestinians or the Lebanese themselves for their own purpose and then contenting themselves with playing the role of a spectator who does not intervene until the fire is about to subside in order to start it up again. We do not think we have to remind the residents of the isolationist ghetto of the facts which prove this trend, since they are in the heart of the whirlpool and know it better than others.

Menahem Begin is planning something in Lebanon. This is not something new or secret to anyone. He plans to use the Christians in Lebanon as fuel for the new fire he wants to ignite. Will wisdom descend on these leaders so they can spare the Lebanese from the hellish fire, or will they maintain their commitment to their job and fulfill the Zionist wishes and let all the Lebanese go to Hell? This question will be answered in the coming days, which are pregnant with possibilities and surprises.

PLO ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN HEBRON

JNL02006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 10 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 February--The PLO Executive Committee has greeted the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in occupied Hebron in facing the fascist Zionist terrorism, which has been practiced against the town, its sons and sacred sites for 10 days now.

The committee issued a statement today, warning against the repeated Zionist attacks of the Palestinian citizens--women, elderly and children--and against the desecration of the Ibrahimi Mosque and other sacred places. The statement adds that the Zionist authorities have changed the town into a military barracks ever since the siege was imposed on it.

The committee appealed to the Arab and Islamic nations to resolutely and solidly support and defend the valiant town, its citizens and institutions.

ARAB REJECTIONISTS DEMAND TRANSFER OF UNESCO EGYPT OFFICE

NC030855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 February--In today's issue, the newspaper AS-SIYASI says that the rejectionist countries' attempts to boycott Egypt have taken a new turn with their request that the UNESCO international center for adult education and eradication of illiteracy be transferred from the Egyptian village of Sirs al-Layyanah to either Jordan or to the main UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The paper notes that Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia and Mauritania have withdrawn from the session on village development and eradication of illiteracy in the Arab world, which was scheduled to be held in the Sudan on 9 February; this step was taken by the aforementioned countries in support of the rejectionist front's demand to transfer all UNESCO departments from Cairo to any other capital.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS REVOLUTIONARY, SUPREME MILITARY COUNCILS

Revolutionary Council Meeting

NC100827 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Fatah's Revolutionary Council held a meeting last night that was attended by brother Abu 'Ammar and the brother members of the Fatah Central Committee and of the Revolutionary Council.

Brother Abu 'Ammar presented a comprehensive political report on the developments that are occurring rapidly and successively in Lebanon in light of the Lebanese Government's decisions, the PLO Executive Committee statement, and the meeting held 2 days ago in Damascus between brother Abu 'Ammar and President al-Asad.

The Revolutionary Council assessed these events as well as the attitude that the Palestinians are required to take toward them. The council also took some measures needed for facing all eventualities.

Supreme Military Council

NC100828 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Yesterday at noon, brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, presided over a meeting of the Palestinian revolution's Supreme Military Council. The conferees dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon in particular and the Arab situation in general.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

NC100828 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Last night, brother Abu 'Ammar received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov. At the meeting, the brother commander in chief received a letter from the Soviet leaders on the latest developments.

KUWAIT

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS MCHENRY ARRIVES

LD101744 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Text] U.S. representative at the United Nations Mr Donald McHenry arrived in Kuwait this evening for a 2-day visit at the start of a tour of a number of countries in the region. He was welcomed at the airport by Hamad 'Isa Ruqayb, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

McHenry told reporters on arrival that while in Kuwait he would be exchanging views on matters of interest to the two countries. He said many of the problems he will discuss are related to the situation in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, toward which the United Nations has special responsibility.

The American delegate confirmed that the United States would continue to work with UN members to guarantee the integrity of all states and also the basic rights of all peoples to make decisions without interference by foreign forces.

Talks With Foreign Minister

LD111420 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1227 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 11 February--Kuwait today urged the United States to contact the Palestinians directly with a view to finding a solution to the Palestine question and at the same time to show patience over the question of the hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Following a lengthy meeting with the U.S. permanent delegate to the United Nations, Donald McHenry, who is now on a visit to Kuwait, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said that the Palestinians "are the ones capable of talking about their cause and people and the road is open to the United States to meet with all classes of the Palestinians directly and without any middlemen." He added that "the Palestinians [word indistinct] the PLO alone are capable of conveying their views to a superpower like the United States in the manner they deem fit." Shaykh as-Sabah said he told McHenry that Washington should not adopt "conflicting stands" on the questions of the occupation of Jerusalem and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, because the question of Jerusalem is an Islamic issue and the question of Palestine is no less important than that of Afghanistan.

Shaykh as-Sabah added that he explained to the black U.S. delegate that "neither the use of force nor any other means of pressure" will be able to secure the release of the hostages who have been detained at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran since early November. He added that a "way out" of this crisis might be possible after the formation of a new Iranian Government, now that a new Iranian president has been elected. He also said that Kuwait believes [words indistinct] in the first place and that all must work to keep the area free from the dangers of cold war.

Shaykh as-Sabah also said he told McHenry that Kuwait and other countries, which he did not name, are anxious to find a solution to the Iranian-American crisis from a humanitarian point of view, and that this concept is supported by all officials in the area, including those responsible for administration in Iran.

KUWAIT REPORTS SUCCESSFUL TEST OF SOVIET-MADE MISSILES

LD090944 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0712 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--It was announced here last night that Kuwait has carried out its first military maneuvers using Soviet-made ground-to-ground missiles that are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Kuwaiti television transmitted a program which included a successful test launch of these missiles, which are of the Luna type. The missiles are 6 meters long and have a range of 68 km. The television report said that the test was made within the framework of maneuvers by the artillery corps and took place last Wednesday in a desert region of this oil-exporting Arab Gulf state.

Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah described the launching of these missiles as a turning point for the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. He said the qualifications and skill demonstrated by the Kuwaiti soldiers will be available and ready on the day appointed for the liberation of the usurped Arab land--which is under Israeli occupation--from the usurper.

The minister said the missiles represent a transition by the Kuwaiti artillery corps from the era of traditional guns to that of missiles. "Our young men and our military commanders have proved their competence in using an advanced modern weapons with 100 percent success. More important than firing the missiles in my view is to hit the target from a long distance," he said.

Military officers described the Kuwaiti Armed Forces as having become the best in the region. They stressed that Kuwait, which used to depend on Western sources for its arms, is continuing its efforts to diversify its procurement sources in order to secure the best weapons available.

OMAN

MINISTER REPORTS PDRY CONTACTS, DENIES U.S. BASES PRESENT

NC091435 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, 9 February--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi today revealed that contacts are taking place between his country and the PDRY Government to normalize relations between the two countries.

In an interview granted to the Lebanese AL-HAWADITH magazine, the Omani minister explained that the contacts between the two governments are taking place after the Aden government adopted a political decision in this respect following contacts with Kuwait, which had requested this.

He again denied the existence of any U.S. military bases in the Sultanate of Oman, saying that reports in this regard are false and are disseminated by tendentious circles.

Az-Zawawi affirmed that the states in the area are responsible for protecting their oil resources and security. He said that the responsibility of the Sultanate of Oman lies in protecting its territorial waters, which include part of the Hormuz Strait--a waterway which is important to the Gulf area.

DEFENSE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES GULF SECURITY

LD092000 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Col Salim 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, under secretary in the Ministry of Defense, has said that the increased dangers facing the Gulf stem directly from the low level to which the Soviet economy has descended. His excellency said that the Russians, since the days of the tsars, have always dreamed of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf as a way to underpin the Soviet economy and at the same time strike at the Islamic faith. They aim at subjecting us to Soviet ambitions, he said.

His excellency told the Saudi magazine IQRA that the Russian dream of occupying the Arabian Peninsula would be impossible to achieve without controlling the Gulf and its waters. This is why the USSR has concluded agreements and treaties of friendship with some of the states in the region, the latest being the treaty with the ruling regime in Aden.

On security in the Gulf, his excellency the under secretary said that following meetings and consultations between the Foreign and Defense Ministries, agreement has been reached on an Omani plan drawn up by the country's political and military authorities. The most important feature of the study is that it produces positive ways to coordinate countermoves to threats to insure the safety and protection of our important waterway, the strait, thus safeguarding the region as a whole. Our brothers in the region have been informed, he said.

His excellency the under secretary in the Defense Ministry went on to say that although 60 percent of the efforts of the Omani Navy are now concentrated on protection of the strait, the Sultanate still does not demand any payments from ships passing through it. This matter has still not been studied.

On the question of whether there is any security coordination between the Sultanate and Iran to protect the strait, His Excellency Colonel al-Ghazali said there is a tacit agreement between the two countries but no formal accord on joint defense. In the event of any emergency it would be natural that there would be close cooperation between the two countries, because of their common interests. Oman is prepared to enter into a dialog with Iran at any time on matters of common interest. Our relations with Iran are based on cooperation and mutual respect.

QATAR

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI ARRIVES IN DOHA

NC081628 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 8 February --Mohamed Fitouri, the Tunisian foreign minister and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's envoy, arrived in Doha from Bahrain tonight on a brief visit to Qatar.

Fitouri's visit to Qatar comes within the tour he is currently making to states in the area in order to brief officials on the recent incidents in the Tunisian town of Qafsah.

Earlier today, Fitouri handed the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, a letter from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the incidents that took place in the Tunisian town of Qafsah.

SAUDI ARABIA

NORTH YEMEN URGED TO CUT LINKS WITH MOSCOW

WA081334 London REUTER in English 1215 GMT 8 Feb 80 WA

[Excerpts] Amman, Jordan, Feb 8, REUTER --Saudi Arabia, fearing communist infiltration across its borders, is pressing neighboring North Yemen to cut its military links with Moscow, according to Arab diplomatic sources in Amman. They said that with Marxism deeply embedded in South Yemen and Ethiopia. Riyadh is seeking to prevent the establishment of a new Soviet stronghold on its southwestern flank.

The sources said Saudi Arabia had asked the North Yemeni Government of President 'Ali Abdallah Salih to halt Soviet arms purchases and expel the several hundred Russian military experts training Yemenis on Soviet weaponry. But North Yemen, which takes arms from both Moscow and Washington, turned down the Saudi request, the sources added.

The Saudi pressure coincided with persistent reports from several Arab capitals that a government change in North Yemen is imminent. Relations between Riyadh and the North Yemen capital of San'a' have also been soured by a simmering border dispute.

Arab diplomatic sources in the Jordanian capital said Saudi Arabia had asked North Yemen to ratify a protocol confirming the present border between the two countries. The towns of Najran and Jizan, lying north of the border, were originally Yemeni, but were annexed by Saudi Arabia in 1934. They are still Yemeni in character, and North Yemen has never abandoned its claim to the towns.

While Saudi Arabia wants Soviet military influence in North Yemen to end, the San'a' government complains that a U.S. arms deal, concluded after its border war with South Yemen last year, is too small. The diplomatic sources said that only one squadron of American-made F-5 fighters had been delivered to North Yemen. Other jet aircraft were still at the Saudi Arabian airbase of Khamis Mushayt, near Najran. The aircraft were delivered to Saudi Arabia because it had financed their purchase.

FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS REFUSAL OF MILITARY FACILITIES

LD092108 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal once again confirmed the kingdom's refusal to allow the establishment of foreign military bases or to provide any military facilities to any state on its land. His royal highness added that the kingdom's policy in this respect is known and clear, and that the kingdom would not conclude an agreement on any kind of facilities with the Americans or others. His royal highness described reports on this matter as completely untrue, like those aimed at spreading lies about the kingdom and its firm policy.

UAE

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HERRERA, DELEGATION PAY VISIT

NC081707 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1605 GMT 8 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 February--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera arrived in Abu Dhabi from Tripoli tonight on a 1-day official visit to the UAE.

Herrera was received on arrival in Abu Dhabi by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

During his visit, which comes within the framework of a tour of a number of OPEC states, Herrera is scheduled to hold talks with officials here on relations between the two countries in the oil and economic spheres and on means to bolster OPEC.

The Venezuelan president is accompanied on the visit by a delegation which includes the ministers of foreign affairs, energy, minerals and defense and a number of other officials.

Urges Unified Oil Price System

NC091057 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0935 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 9 February--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera [in an interview today with UAE television] called for a unified oil price system through joint efforts made by the UAE and Venezuela.

He said his current tour is for the purpose of strengthening relations with the Arab oil-producing countries and discussing OPEC's internal position in order to consolidate cooperation and unity, particularly on oil prices and production and on OPEC cooperation with developing countries.

He called on the developing countries to ally themselves with the oil-exporting countries and to ignore the propaganda of industrial states, which are seeking to keep them away from OPEC as well as blaming OPEC for the effects of world inflation.

He revealed a proposal for establishing an institute for higher technical and professional studies in the field of oil, to be financed by OPEC, that would contribute toward strengthening the cooperation between the developing countries and OPEC. He said the assistance OPEC would offer the developing countries would take several forms, including support for the present finance fund and the establishment of an agency to aid in the short- or long-term development of these states.

He stressed that his discussions with Shaykh Zayid were held in a cordial atmosphere, that both countries were working within the framework of OPEC and had identical stands regarding several issues facing OPEC, and that this visit would further consolidate bilateral relations.

Joint Statement on Visit

NC091636 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1423 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text of joint statement issued on the 8-9 February visit of Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins to the UAE]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 February--In response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the UAE, His Excellency Luis Herrera, president of the Republic of Venezuela, paid an official visit to the UAE on 8 and 9 February 1980. The great guest and his delegation were met at the airport by his excellency the head of state, the ministers and high-ranking officials. This was a sign of the strong friendship between the governments and peoples of the UAE and the Republic of Venezuela.

The two sides held cordial talks headed on the UAE side by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and on the Venezuelan side by His Excellency President Luis Herrera. During the talks there was a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and of Arab and international topics. An atmosphere of understanding and frankness prevailed during the talks.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, noting that every state has the legitimate right to strive to insure that loyalty to these principles and objectives is maintained in the international community on the basis of equality, mutual respect, the right of all peoples to self-determination and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states.

Reviewing Venezuela's foreign policy, President Herrera noted the need to apply the principles of social justice in relations among states with a view to establishing a world order based on justice, interdependence and cooperation among states--conditions which are indispensable for achieving international prosperity.

The two sides exchanged views on various aspects of the international situation, sharing anxiety over the recent events that are endangering world peace and security. They reaffirmed their denunciation of the military intervention in Afghanistan, affirming the right of all peoples and states to determine their future and to choose the methods and styles for their economic development without any intervention or foreign pressure. They also expressed hope that wisdom and discretion would prevail in international relations, particularly on the part of the great powers. This would help to remove the obstacles that are preventing the elimination of the causes of dispute and tension in various parts of the world and would greatly contribute toward creating a new world order that would respect the rights of all peoples.

The UAE side expressed the belief that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East conflict, affirming that there can be no just and permanent peace until this problem in all aspects is settled. Such a settlement should restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their own state on their land. The UAE side called for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The Venezuelan side expressed support for the demand for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the UN resolutions and for finding a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement to the Palestinian question, which is the crux of the Middle East problem.

The two sides underlined the urgent need for a halt to the arms race, particularly nuclear armament, in order to allocate the greatest resources to the economic and social progress of peoples. This is in addition to the nuclear powers' responsibility to stop this race.

The two sides affirmed resolute support for all efforts directed toward eliminating the vestiges of colonialism, racial segregation and racist regimes.

In implementation of the honorary mission entrusted to him by the Andean Community, President Herrera conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan a cordial message from the presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia expressing a joint desire to consolidate relations with the Arab world in all spheres of common interest.

The Venezuelan president also explained the projects for economic integration which the Andean Community has implemented and the measures which it has taken to deal with various regional and international political problems.

The two heads of state noted with anxiety that the dangerous problems affecting the world economy have not been dealt with decisively by the majority of the industrial world's states, as evidenced by the lack of progress in the talks now underway aimed at creating a new world order that would lead to a structural change based on justice and equality in international economic relations. The two leaders expressed their firm determination to contribute to promoting the preparations which the United Nations has begun for international negotiation which may lead to highly significant steps toward a new economic order through unanimous and unified handling of the major questions of international cooperation for development.

The two leaders stressed their official commitment to promote OPEC and strengthen its negotiating power at the international level, particularly with regard to the legitimate interests of their peoples, the developing countries and the entire world community.

The two leaders stressed their determination to contribute to strengthening unity solidarity among the Group of 7, to which their countries belong, and expressed agreement with its aims and aspirations. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to support cooperation and integration among the developing countries in order to strengthen unilateral and collective self-reliance and to defend their common interests and improve their joint negotiating powers, which would insure them an equal and fair share of the fruits of the world economy.

The Venezuelan side proposed establishing an academic institute for higher studies to specialize in various scientific fields. It has also proposed the establishment of a training program in various spheres related to oil under the supervision of the Petroleum Technical Institute in Venezuela to serve the OPEC members. The UAE welcomed the two proposals and expressed readiness to support them.

Leaves for Kuwait

NC091010 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 February--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera left Abu Dhabi for Kuwait today after a 1-day visit to the UAE. The Venezuelan president was seen off by the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayhan; Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, His Highness Lt Gen Khalifah ibn Zayid; and some UAE senior officials. Prior to his departure today, the Venezuelan president held discussions with His Highness Shaykh Zayid on coordinating the two countries' stands on certain oil affairs, on aid to the developing states and on bilateral relations.

STATE MINISTER MEETS PLO'S QADDUMI, FATAH'S ABU MAZIN

NC091565 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah today met with the chief of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, and with Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin. The two are currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by the PLO representative in the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad.

During the meeting the conferees reviewed bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the current Arab situation. The Palestinian delegation arrived in the UAE last Thursday on a visit of several days.

YAR

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS MINISTERIAL DISMISSALS

LD110944 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 February--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH reports today that two senior YAR officials have lost their posts following the discovery of a scandal of bugging and spying against the YAR president himself, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. In a Dubai dispatch citing unnamed Gulf circles, the paper says the two officials were presidential adviser 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and chief of security Lt Col Muhammad Khamis.

The paper adds that as a result of this discovery President Salih ordered the closing of the U.S. military advisory office, which supervises U.S. military supplies to North Yemen which are financed by Saudi Arabia. The paper adds that members of the U.S. mission left San'a' a few days ago.

The paper adds that bugging equipment and tapes were discovered 2 weeks ago in the house and office of President Salih, and that investigations have shown that Al-Asnaj and Khamis were behind the operation.

The paper recalls that Al-Asnaj, who was a former foreign minister and comes from Southern Yemen, has been placed under restricted movement and that his passport has been withdrawn. Several security department officials have also lost their posts along with Khamis.

The Gulf circles cited by the paper consider the relieving of Al-Asnaj and Khamis from their posts as politically important as "a white coup d'etat through which President Salih has drawn a new framework for internal action which is being completed and which will involve a cabinet reshuffle to include the various national elements."

Ambassador's Comment

LD111104 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0726 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 February--YAR Ambassador to Kuwait Lt Col 'Abdallah ar-Ra'i refuted today press reports alleging that there is likely to be a new government in his country, though he did not discount the likelihood of a reshuffle in the present government of 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. He said that "the only new development that might take place is a reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to include new activities in preparation for the second 5-year plan which will follow the first 5-year plan which is about to end."

He added that what is "new" in the YAR is that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has adopted a charter of national action "based" on the objectives of the 1962 revolution which toppled the royalist regime as well as on "the new developments in the Arab, Yemeni and international spheres." He said the new charter "is a guide and concept for national action in the Yemeni arena as all the national forces which approved the idea will be working for it."

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E G Y P T

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PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO POPE ON WORLD PEACE DAY

NC091435 Cairo MENA in English 1410 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 9 (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat today sent a message to Pope Paul II of the Vatican on the occasion of the World Peace Day today.

President as-Sadat said he was happy to receive the pope's appeal for world peace particularly in these circumstances during which crises erupt among peoples and the spectre of war and sufferings threaten a lot of peoples.

On behalf of the Egyptian people, who kept working since seven thousand years to protect human civilisation and foster bonds of love, respect and tolerance among peoples and governments, President as-Sadat shared [the call of] the pope for more sincerity and truth in relations among peoples being the core of peace and its momentum and with a view to eliminate violence through eradicating all unjust conditions.

A new system dominated by justice, truth and equality is what peoples are in dire need for being the only means to protect coming generations of destruction, suffering and poverty.

President as-Sadat noted in his message to the pope of the Vatican that the Egyptian people are aware of their responsibility for the sake of good for all and for a comprehensive peace protecting the future of all peoples of the region who have long catastrophes of war.

You have surely followed efforts Egypt exerted for liberating the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and restoring the rights of the Palestinians, President as-Sadat said.

In conclusion President as-Sadat shared the pope's call for all peoples to work for creating a new world system in which dignity of the individual and human values are applied and principles of justice, love and security are fostered.

EGYPTIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY DISSOLVED

NC101258 Cairo MENA in English 1240 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, Feb 10 (MENA)--The Board of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society today decided to dissolve the society in protest against the attitude of the Soviet people who stood hand folded in face of its government and imperialist rulers and did not defend the peace and freedom of peoples.

The society in a statement issued today asserted complete support to the stand of President as-Sadat vis-a-vis the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and his resolution to expel the rest of Soviet experts in Egypt.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON 'TERRORISTIC PLANS, MOVES'

NC101440 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 February--Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il has declared that Egypt is passing through a delicate stage in its struggle and that this requires the unification of all efforts to implement the ambitious development programs to achieve prosperity for the Egyptian people.

The interior minister stressed that the terroristic plans and moves--which are being carried out by a minority, that is rejected by Egyptian society, in order to shatter the national unity by the distribution of leaflets and sowing sedition--will absolutely not affect the masses of the vigilant Egyptian people. He added that the Interior Ministry is fully aware of these plans and moves and is nipping them in the bud.

The interior minister stated this at the popular political conference held by the National Democratic Party at the Central Committee's hall. The conference ended this morning. The interior minister praised the cohesion of the domestic front, saying: All of us here, both Muslims and Christians, work in all sectors and positions of the state to serve the Egyptian public interest. He pointed out that the glorious October War, which crystallized the high national spirit in Egypt, was waged by Muslim and Christian officers and soldiers.

Referring to the Egyptian communists and Nasirite advocates abroad who attack Egypt, the interior minister said that their aim is to harm Egypt and distort the gains achieved in the development field.

The interior minister emphasized that despite the stands of their rulers, the Arab peoples accept the policy of President Anwar as-Sadat. In this regard, he pointed out that 95 percent of the Arab people in Syria and Iraq support this serious policy which is aimed at achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

'HIGHER SOURCES' SAY AT-TUHAMI REMARKS 'PERSONAL'

NC090822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0648 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--In its Sunday edition, OCTOBER magazine quotes higher sources as saying that [Deputy Prime Minister] Hasan at-Tuhami expressed his own personal views in the interview given to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH in which he strongly attacked the Jews, Israel, Moshe Dayan, some Israeli authors and two books published last year under the titles "The Year of the Dove" and "As-Sadat on the Road to Peace." The sources said that the official Egyptian views were clearly known to the entire world.

ISRAEL EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW FROM SINAI YEAR EARLY

NC090924 Cairo MENA in English 0815 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February (MENA)--Israel is expected to withdraw from Sinai completely one year ahead of the date set in the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, reports AKHBAR AL-YAWM in its banner headlines and leading front-page story. The paper says that Israel will pull back behind the international frontier in 15 months. The peace treaty provides that Israel withdraw two years and three months after the completion of the first stage of withdrawal.

The Egyptian military committee made a study about the second stage of withdrawal, and the Egyptian-Israeli committee is expected to undertake intensive action in connection with the follow-up of the Israeli withdrawal and will participate in following up the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to security points following the formal implementation of normalisation of relations and the exchange of ambassadors, scheduled to begin on February 26 next.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM further reports that Minister of Defense Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali will meet with Israeli Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman in Tel Aviv on February 23 to consider the plan of action of the Egyptian-Israeli military committee. Their meeting will last for three days, the paper added.

NEXT AUTONOMY TALKS SESSION TO BE HELD IN LONDON

NC091345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1326 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--Hasan Kamil, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Democratic Party, said today that the next meeting of the ministerial committee on Palestinian autonomy would take place in London at the end of this month.

The Egyptian delegation to the meeting will be led by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, the U.S. delegation by Ambassador Sol Linowitz, and the Israeli delegation by Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

PLANNING MINISTER: NO JOINT ECONOMIC PROJECTS WITH ISRAEL

NC090829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--Minister of Planning Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Hamid has said that the current 5-year plan includes no joint economic projects with Israel.

In a statement published in the Sunday edition of OCTOBER magazine, Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq says that a joint investment project with Israel is better than something like a night club project undertaken by another investor regardless of his nationality.

AL-AHRAM INTERVIEWS WEST BANK MAYORS, WEIZMAN

NC110940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 February--Palestinian mayors in the West Bank and the Gaza Sector have expressed support for Egypt's efforts and serious quest for the restoration of legitimate Palestinian rights and the promotion of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, according to interviews conducted by the newspaper AL-AHRAM with a number of mayors, published today under the headline "In the Occupied Territory."

Ramallah Mayor Ilyas Frayj says that Egypt has every right to work for the liberation of Sinai, and nobody can blame it for regaining its territory. However, he adds, this should not prevent it from adopting a firm stand regarding the rights of the Palestinians.

The mayor of Ramallah criticizes the Israeli autonomy plan. He says the plan treats the Palestinians in the occupied territories as a minority living on Israeli territory. He adds that there is a big difference between the Egyptian and Israeli positions on autonomy.

Frayj also says that Israel does not want to show good will. Otherwise, it would have released the thousands of Palestinian detainees from its prisons.

AL-AHRAM also published an interview with Bayt Jala Mayor Parah Saba. He says that the Egyptian demands for full autonomy constitute an important step on the road toward the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This, he adds, is "the opinion of all reasonable people," and this view may be acceptable to all as a step on the road, but nobody can voice an opinion here; no one dares. We are helpless, he says, since the Arabs decided in Rabat that the PLO was entitled to represent the Palestinians.

Parah Saba maintains that genuine agreement between the PLO and Jordan would help unite the now divided will. He adds: We can only pray that God may guide the Arab officials and lead them to agree on the need to eliminate the occupation authorities before quarreling over other matters.

In Hebron, Mustafa Dudin, a West Bank dignitary, emphasizes in his interview with AL-AHRAM that Egypt does not need anyone's testimony because its role is known and we, the Palestinians, feel it more than anyone else. He adds: The convulsions that we are now witnessing do not reflect the views of the silent majority, which is helpless and which fears the threats, assassinations and rockets which fall on people's homes. I personally, he adds, was the target of two such incidents.

Dudin denies reports that the Egyptian papers were burned on arrival in Hebron. He says that when the papers were first received the distribution was 4,000 copies, but now it has reached 200,000 copies.

In Gaza, AL-AHRAM interviewed Ibrahim Abu Sittah. He says: Between us and Egypt there can be no third will. It was Egypt which protected the Gaza Sector and sacrificed for the Palestine cause. Egypt is the only state which has not tried to have its own faction in the Palestinian resistance movement, so as not to fragment it, as the others have done. He expresses hope that an atmosphere of security will prevail to enable the Palestinians to make their decision.

Under the same headline, "In the Occupied Territory," AL-AHRAM published an interview with Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

Asked about everyone's rejection of Israel's interpretation of autonomy, Weizman says that it will be possible within 2 months to reach agreement on autonomy, despite the gap between Egypt and Israel. A suitable solution, he says, will be found (?as an alternative). He points out that the solution for the West Bank will be quite similar to the settlement achieved for Sinai.

Referring to President Anwar as-Sadat's call for the introduction of autonomy in Gaza first, Weizman says that this is a practical proposal and a good idea because the problem in Gaza is different from the problem in the West Bank. However, he adds, complete agreement should first be reached on the principles and jurisdictions of autonomy; then comes implementation.

Weizman says he hopes King Husayn of Jordan will come to negotiate with Israel. He adds: Why shouldn't he come and address the Israeli people anyway he likes, as President as-Sadat did?

Why shouldn't the Palestinians join the negotiations? He adds: If I am to withdraw, with whom am I to discuss matters of security and guarantees?

AL-AHRAM URGES PALESTINIANS TO READ EGYPTIAN AUTONOMY PLAN

LD111001 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Feb 80 p 9 LD

[Editorial: "Read the Egyptian Plan"]

[Text] The plan which Egypt submitted to Israel at the autonomy talks and whose text AL-AHRAM exclusively published yesterday should prompt every Arab citizen to ask this question: Is it possible that Egypt has failed in anything? Can anyone else call for anything different from what Egypt has been calling for, struggling for and the Egyptian negotiator trying for?

In referring to this plan Israel described it as a plan for the establishment of a Palestinian state and not Palestinian autonomy. Israel's interpretation is unimportant, but what is important is Egypt's sense of the responsibility toward its national duty, despite all the irresponsible thrusts which some are trying to direct against it. Egypt is well aware of the truth behind these stabs: either they are prompted by ignorance, by oneupmanship or by a sense of failure to coexist in peace. But what matters is that the Palestinians, the principal trustees of the cause, must understand this fact--to realize who is struggling for the sake of their cause and who is falsely struggling on their behalf.

Every Palestinian must read the Egyptian plan which calls for withdrawal of the Israeli military government from the West Bank and Gaza, the withdrawal of its civilian administration and the transfer of power to representatives of the Palestinian people, who should exercise their authority over the people and the land during a transitional period not exceeding 5 years, after which they will determine their future. Every Palestinian must read the words of the Egyptian plan on Jerusalem, on the Israeli settlements and on the powers and jurisdiction of autonomy rule.

It is the responsibility of every Palestinian who cares about his cause and his freedom to fully realize who is with him and who is against him, who opens the road for him and who blocks it, and who gives him light and who engulfs him in darkness.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI RETURNS FROM ZAIRE VISIT

NC081820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1633 GMT 8 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 February--Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo this afternoon after a 5-day visit to Zaire during which he conveyed a personal message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko. The defense minister was received at the airport by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi and high-ranking officers.

The defense minister stated upon his return that an official delegation from Zaire will visit Egypt this month and in March to complete details of the military protocol which was concluded yesterday between Egypt and Zaire and to add several supplements to it. The defense minister said the protocol covers cooperation in the spheres of military training, the dispatch of delegations consisting of specialists in various spheres from Zaire to Egypt, and the dispatch of Egyptian instructors and military experts to Zaire to bolster Zaire's military capabilities.

The defense minister added that Zairian Defense Minister Babia Malobia will visit Cairo late in March or the beginning of April in order to bolster the bilateral relations between the two countries.

PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN PROPOSES PAN-ARAB CHARTER

JN081927 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1610 GMT 8 Feb 80 JN

[Speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at a popular rally held in Baghdad on 8 February 1980 to mark the 8 February revolution anniversary--recorded]

[Excerpts] O great people, O brother strugglers: Seventeen years ago today, your great 8 February revolution, the glorious revolution of Ramadan, erupted [applause] to confirm Iraq's nationalism and Arabism and to protect the honor of Iraq and the Iraqi people. The day on which the revolution erupted was also a Friday [applause, shouts in background]. It was a Friday in the month of Ramadan.

A total of 17 years ago on 8 February, or just before 8 February, Iraq was beset by the malicious and atheistic wave of Ash-Shu'ubiyah. Iraq experienced a difficult ordeal and a difficult test concerning the principles and honor of nationalism and pan-Arabism. The nation and the Iraqi people needed a knight to save them from their ordeal. This knight was your great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [applause]

Very few of you, very few young people experienced or knew about the tragic circumstances through which the Iraqi people passed until the eruption of the Ramadan revolution. A malicious and atheistic Ash-Shu'ubist wave beset Iraq a few months after the eruption of the great 14 July 1958 revolution against the monarchy. The Ash-Shu'ubists gathered under the banner of 'Abd al-Karim Qasim and the degrading banner of the Iraqi communists, who transformed Iraq into a large lake of blood. They wanted to isolate Iraq from the Arab nation and struggle. They wanted to isolate Iraq and sever all its historic roots and bonds which link it to the Arab nation. They wanted to blow up the bridges between the Iraqi Arabs and Kurds and between their glorious common history. They wanted to blow up the strong spiritual bridges between the Iraqi people and the values of heaven. They wanted to establish a deformed regime that is divorced from nationalism and from the pan-Arab struggle.

Brothers, it is ironic to hear that some of these Ash-Shu'ubists are now found in some countries in the world. A few weeks ago, I saw a secret pamphlet issued in some of those countries in which they say that the Ba'th Party is not democratic, that the National Assembly and the legislative council are undemocratic facades and that the formulas for elections are not democratic. Let them and let you hear some specimens of the democracy of these agents, because anyone who associates himself with foreigners, under any cover or pretext, is an agent and traitor to the soil of the homeland, to the skies of Iraq and to the waters of the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers. [applause]

Those who are talking about democracy used to hang naked virgins on power pylons until they died. This happened to martyr Al-Umari and others. Those who are talking about and demanding freedom and democracy used to tie the strugglers to cars and drag them until they died. They used to bury the strugglers alive, a deed that never took place except before the advent of Islam. This is what happened in Nineveh Province, Al Basra and Kirkuk. The names of the martyrs who died in this democratic manner are known and listed in the glorious list of immortals. They are engraved on the conscience of history and in the history of the Iraqi people and Arab nation. [applause]

Those who want to struggle for freedom and democracy in accordance with the concepts of the Iraqi communists, let them understand that this is their freedom and this is their democracy.

Let them all hear throughout the globe that we in Iraq are one united people: Muslims and Christians, [applause] Shi'ites and Sunnis [applause], Arabs and Kurds.

The Muslims in the past came out with sects, a result of the interpretation of the Koran and history. Some said we are Sunnis and others said we are Shi'ites. So what? If the Iraqi people are made up of Sunnis and Shi'ites, does this make them two different peoples and not a united people, the people of the Ramadan revolution and the July revolution? [applause]

O glorious Iraqis, O honest Arabs everywhere, what others whisper about, we proclaim publicly. This is a fact and a force in our society, but not a weapon brandished against the revolution. It is a weapon which we brandish against the enemies, a weapon brandished by a united nation of Arabs and Kurds, Muslims and Christians of all sects and communities in defense of Iraq's unity and honor, in defense of the principles of the July and Ramadan revolution and in defense of the Arab nations honor everywhere. [applause]

Brothers, the Arab nation is facing difficult times. These difficult times are not due solely to the occupation of our Arab land. There is an evil international rivalry to divide the Arab homeland into various parts among the big powers. You know that the Arabs have a long way to go to be fully united.

O glorious Iraqis, you shoulder a big and important responsibility not in defense of Iraq and Iraq's honor, soil and unity, but in defense of the Arab nation's unity, honor, history and principles. O Iraqis, are you satisfied with defending only Iraq? [shouts of "no" in the background] We will not be satisfied with the defense of the soil and honor of Iraq alone, we should prepare ourselves to defend the Arab nation's honor, principles, unity and pan-Arab struggle.

Brothers, we should firmly work with the Arab brothers on any level agreed upon between us and them so as to prevent the partitioning of the Arab homeland and nation into shares among the big powers. On this basis, the leadership and the RCC discussed the international circumstances and complexities surrounding the Arab homeland and reached this principle; namely, that we should work at any level of agreement with the Arab regimes to prevent the division of the Arab homeland among the international powers. At the end of my speech, I will read to you a decision made by the RCC and the Regional Command.

Allow me to read to you the declaration approved by the party leadership and the RCC:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Declaration: In light of the current international situation and the possibilities of its future development and in light of the dangerous possibilities that might ensue from this development, threatening pan-Arab sovereignty and security on the one hand, and world peace and security on the other; in response to the dictates of pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab nation and its people, land, culture, civilization and heritage; and in accordance with the principles of the nonaligned movement, Iraq finds itself called upon to initiate the issuance of this declaration so that it can serve first as a charter to regulate relations among the Arab countries and second, as a pledge by the nation to neighboring countries which proclaim their respect for and commitment to this charter.

The declaration is based on the following principles:

1. The rejection of the presence or the facilitation of the presence of any foreign armies, bases or armed forces in the Arab homeland in any form, under any pretext and guise or for any reason; the isolation of any Arab regime which does not adhere to this principle, boycotting such an Arab regime politically and economically and resisting its policies by all available means.

This is the first principle. Do you all agree? [shouts of "yes" in the background]

2. Banning any Arab state from resorting to armed force against any other Arab state and resolving any disputes that might arise among the Arab countries by peaceful means and within the context of the principles of joint pan-Arab action and the supreme Arab interests.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

3. The application of the principle cited in clause two above to the relations between the Arab nation and its countries and nations and states neighboring the Arab homeland.

Of course, you know that the Zionist entity is not included because it is not considered a state. It is a freak entity occupying Arab land and is not included in these principles.

It is not permissible to resort to the armed forces in disputes with these states, except in the case of self-defense and the defense of sovereignty against the threats which undermine the security and basic interests of the Arab countries.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!", applause]

4. The solidarity of all the Arab countries against any aggression, violation or state of actual war which any foreign side might undertake against the territorial integrity of any Arab country. These countries will jointly repulse this aggression or violation and will thwart it by using all ways and means, including military action, collective political and economic boycott and any other methods dictated by necessity and pan-Arab interests.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

5. The affirmation of the Arab countries commitment to international laws and norms pertaining to the use of waters, airspace and zones by any state which is not in a state of war with any Arab country.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

6. Keeping the Arab countries away from the circle of international conflicts or wars, and commitment to total neutrality and nonalignment toward any party to the conflict or war as long as these parties to the conflict or war have not violated Arab territorial integrity and the inalienable rights of the Arab countries, which are guaranteed by international laws and norms. The Arab countries will not allow their military forces to participate in part or whole in military conflicts and wars inside and outside the area on behalf of any foreign state or quarter.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

7. The commitment of the Arab countries to establish developing and constructive economic relations among themselves in order to provide and strengthen a joint groundwork for a developed Arab economic edifice and Arab unity. The Arab countries will shun any behavior which might harm these relations or impede their continuity and development, irrespective of the diversity of Arab regimes and the peripheral political differences among them, as long as the parties concerned are committed to the principles of this declaration. The Arab countries will adhere to the principles of pan-Arab economic integration. The Arab countries which are economically capable will pledge to offer all kinds of economic assistance to other Arab countries so as to prevent their possible dependence upon foreign forces, which might undermine their independence and pan-Arab will.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

8. While drawing up the principles of this declaration, Iraq affirms its readiness to be committed to this declaration before every Arab country and before any party which is committed to it. Iraq is ready to discuss this declaration with the Arab brothers and to listen to their remarks in order to enhance this declarations effectiveness and to deepen its context.

Iraq also affirms that this declaration does not constitute a substitute to the Arab League Charter, the joint defense treaty and the economic cooperation among the members of the Arab League. Iraq considers this declaration as a strenthening of the charter and treaty commensurate with the current international circumstances, the dangers which threaten the Arab nation and the pan-Arab responsibilities which result from the current and future circumstances.

Do you agree? [shouts of "yes!"]

Great Iraqi people, masses of the glorious Arab nation throughout the Arab homeland: By presenting this declaration, Iraq proceeds from its pan-Arab responsibility, which transcends all regional or self-interests. While putting forward this declaration before the Arab governments, since they are the quarters responsible for its ratification and for adherence to it, we deeply believe that the principles of this pan-Arab declaration cannot be attained and become a charter for Arab relations except through the struggle of the Arab masses and their support for this declaration, because it guarantees their basic interests and responds to their pan-Arab aspirations for freedom and independence and paves the way for Arab unity. [applause]

Brothers, by this declaration, we are ready to join hands with any honest Arab in the Arab homeland who wants to prevent the Arab homeland from being divided among the superpowers or big powers. We believe that our present task is to adhere to this declaration, which we believe is the serious path to safeguard the unity of the Arab nations' land, people and heritage. Peace be upon you.

ATH-THAWRAH Comment

JN091112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 February--In a leading article today, ATH-THAWRAH calls on all Arab regimes and the peoples of the Arab nation to turn the national charter announced by Iraq yesterday into a practical formula for real action and an established fact.

This, the paper says will enable the Arab nation to cope with all challenges, assert its independent will and assume its role in international life and in building the edifice of human civilization from a position where it is strong and can give abundantly.

ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party, emphasizes that any "behavior" by any Arab regime outside the framework of President Saddam's charter will constitute a flagrant abandonment of the pan-Arab role which all the Arab regimes must assume in the current difficult phase in the life of the Arab nation. The paper describes any such behavior as tantamount to "freely supporting the plans of the superpowers and serving their interests and designs in the Arab homeland."

The paper says that following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the U.S. inclination to exploit this, it has become a must to expose and resist these rapid international developments which are characterized by the inclination of the superpowers to interfere in the affairs of other countries whenever their political, economic and military interests and the exigencies of the international balance of power so demand. The paper calls for earnest efforts to consolidate the independent Arab stand so it will not be influenced by any party to the world power struggle.

ATH-THAWRAH says that some Arab regimes have weakened and showed readiness to accept a subservient stand to this or that international side and to grant facilities for foreign military presence on Arab territory because of their inability to defend themselves. This weakness, the paper adds, has placed the Arab nation in a new grave situation threatening the free independent will of the nation and grossly jeopardizing its security.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: The Arab nation's free will can only be fully guaranteed by pooling all the Arab nation's human, economic, military and political resources in the best manner possible and in accordance with a correct and sound program which defines the position to be taken by each Arab regime, regardless of its nature, to insure a reasonably sound and responsible pan-Arab stand against the serious challenges facing the Arab nation.

YUGOSLAV FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICIAL DEPARTS

JN081245 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 February--Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Federal Executive Council in Yugoslavia, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad for home today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. Zvone Dragan described his talks with officials here as successful and fruitful, adding that these talks dealt with aspects of bilateral economic cooperation and the implementation of the protocol which was signed during the meetings of the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint committee for economic and technical cooperation in Belgrade last November.

PRESIDENT'S ENVOY TO INDIA RETURNS HOME

JN081555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 February--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to India, returned home today. 'Alwan said that during his visit to India he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SPEAKER RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS

NC091919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad returned to Al-Hazimiyah [Beirut suburb] at 2030 today following his visit to Damascus where he held important talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Kasm and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The outcome of the meetings was positive. An atmosphere of understanding prevailed during these meetings.

Statement on Talks

NC092112 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad returned to Beirut this evening after meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Senior Syrian officials in the Syrian capital. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and clarification of all pending issues arising from the decision to redeploy the Syrian forces which were operating in the capital and suburbs within the Arab Deterrent Forces. The results of the visit were positive and constructive. On his return to Beirut, Kamil al-As'ad made the following statement to Marun Hubayqah, correspondent of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY who accompanied him on the visit:

[Begin recording] The results of the visit and the talks I held with His Excellency President al-Asad and the fraternal officials in Syria dealt with all aspects of Lebanese-Syrian relations and with the various ramifications of the current situation. At the end of this visit I can affirm with full confidence that Syria is very concerned about preventing an explosion in Lebanon and about stopping any measure that might create an explosion. Syria is concerned about Lebanon's safety and unity. Such an explosion under the current circumstances and at this particular stage would serve a partition plan. Syria's primary aim in entering Lebanon originally was to resist the partition plan. Preventing any eruption in Lebanon is a pan-Arab responsibility that falls on Syria. This is directly linked with the tasks and burden Syria is shouldering at this historic stage of the Arab struggle. No matter what factors might exist to cause tension in Lebanon, we must work to strengthen Syrian-Lebanese relations on a sound basis and with clear vision. Such sound foundations will prevent any crisis in bilateral relations and will insure sound and close cooperation on all levels, particularly the security and political levels. [end recording]

JOINT NATIONALIST DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR SYRIA

NC091656 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement and Nationalist Front have reached unanimous agreement on the need for the Lebanese Government to forego the idea of deploying the army, which would escalate and worsen the security situation. The Lebanese and Syrian arenas are witnessing a series of meetings and intensive contacts aimed at firming positions concerning the national confrontation.

A joint delegation of the National Movement and Nationalist Front left Beirut today for Damascus to meet with senior Syrian officials and submit specific proposals to deal with the present crisis. This crisis has intensified in the wake of the Lebanese Cabinet's decision to hand over security tasks to the army. It has been reported that the proposals call for tackling the Lebanese situation, including Lebanese-Syrian relations, and for the need to correct the faults in the Lebanese authority's policy, which is more favorable to the isolationists, for rebuilding the army on correct and balanced bases and for checking any attempt to detonate the situation. The delegation includes brothers and comrades George Hawi, Muhsin Ibrahim, Ibrahim Qulaylat, Tawfiq Sultan, In'am Ra'd, Samir Sabbagh, Kamal Shatila and 'Asim Qansu.

V. 11 Feb 80

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LEBANON

HADDAD DISCUSSES SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL, ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC100954 MarJ 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Speech by Major Sa'd Haddad on 10 February in English--live or recorded]

[Text] Dear listeners, good morning you: I want to address you a few words telling you what is going on in Lebanon, especially in the capital and on the coastal road. You know very well that the Syrians [have] withdrawn from the coastal road and from the main part of Beirut, giving all this part and position to the terrorists represented by the so-called Palestinian Liberation Army and other organizations and some leftist organizations. At the same time they made a declaration that they are going to withdraw from the contact line and from the capital and the famous President Hafiz al-Asad made a very nice speech saying that the withdrawal's aim is to help the Lebanese authority to be deployed upon the Lebanese land, and especially on the capital, and to help them to deploy their army to assure order and security and to assure the unification between the two parts of Beirut, the eastern and western parts.

Everybody was happy for that and the Lebanese cabinet too. They made a **meeting** and took a decision to deploy the Lebanese Army from where the Syrians are withdrawing. That did not suit to the eyes of the Syrians, for they gave information and orders to their agents in Lebanon--like 'Asim Qansu and the terrorist Yasir 'Arafat and some other leftists--and gave them orders and information to begin a big campaign against the coming or the deployment of the Lebanese Army. We see now the bad will of the Syrians and that proves that the Syrians, they are not in Lebanon to help Lebanese authority; that proves that they came to Lebanon only to occupy Lebanon and annex Lebanon to Syria. So, after that, I ask the world to answer these [actions]. I ask the president, President Sarkis, to execute the order that he gave, to keep on his word. He took a decision to deploy the army. He should [be] keeping this decision, he shouldn't retreat. And at the same time he should call upon the Security Council asking them to answer these [actions] immediately, to stop the aggression, the occupations, the Syrians and Palestinians and communists in Lebanon. And if this action will not be executed, so we will lose Lebanon, the pure and beautiful country which used to be a democratic and free country. We will lose it for others [who are] under the foot of communists and Russians and Syrians together.

For that, if Sarkis will not call for a Security Council [meeting] I hope that the Security Council will hold a meeting without any request after the fact which happened in Lebanon. And I call upon all the Lebanese to stand up and fight the aggression and occupation to save Lebanon. And we are ready to help the Lebanese authority to deploy its army and its authority. Thank you very much.

VOICE OF HOPE REPORTS SHELLING, CASUALTIES IN SOUTH

NC110742 MarJ 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The saboteurs are still blowing up garbage dumps between the Al-Khardali Bridge and An-Nabatiyah. At around 2200, they blew up garbage dumps at the Al-Mansurah Road bend. The saboteurs simultaneously shelled the town of Dayr Mimas. A shell hit the house of Cpl Salim Yusuf Ghannum, who succumbed to his serious injuries.

This morning the saboteurs again shelled the house when they learned that people were going there to offer condolences. Regrettably, and this is an affliction imposed by treacherous circumstances and a dishonorable enemy, a number of people in the house were wounded. The brother of martyr Salim, Raji Yusuf Ghannum, was killed. Furthermore, Sarah Ghannum, sister in law of the two dead men, was killed. A youth, 'Abduh Khuri, was also killed. All the dead hail from Dayr Mimas. The shelling was renewed at exactly 0430; it is still in progress. Our forces are returning the fire and shelling the enemy's positions. They want to assassinate Lebanon's free will by treachery and the shelling of families in their houses. However, they will fail because Lebanon is accustomed to martyrdom.

KHADDAM REJECTS IDEA OF ALINING WITH U.S. AGAINST USSR

LD081645 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 11-17 Feb 80 pp 12, 13 LD

[Interview granted by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Pierre 'Aql in Paris--date not given]

[Text] [Question] What was the outcome of your talks with the French foreign minister?

[Answer] In fact, the talks dealt with the international situation and the current developments. They also dealt with the situation in the Middle East and its current developments. Certainly the French side maintains its firm attitude toward the situation in the area and its belief and peace in the area cannot be real unless it is comprehensive and just and includes the Palestinian problem, on the grounds that it is the crux of the conflict.

We also exchanged views on bilateral relations and on the importance of strengthening these relations. We have come out of the talks with a positive impression.

[Question] What was the gist of the Syrian view at the European Parliament debate on the Middle East problem, and what impression did you gain with regard to the attitude of the European delegates?

[Answer] In my speech I reviewed the developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the effects of this struggle on European peace and security. I stressed that the Arabs will continue their just struggle until they regain their rights in full, restoring the occupied territories and the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

I felt a certain positive development in the European delegates' stands. In the past that body was exclusively for the Israelis, whereas a new era has now begun--one of willingness to hear the Arab viewpoint. There is no doubt that this reflects a positive development, although this development is not to the extent desired. We must continue to work to develop the attitude of others, so that we will attain what we aspire to.

[Question] Do you expect any early European moves or initiatives?

[Answer] No, I do not expect that.

[Question] The French paper LE MONDE said that there was a difference between your attitude and the attitude of French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet, who concentrated during your talks with him on the question of Afghanistan, while you gave priority to the Middle East problem. Meanwhile, there is a special interest in Syria's stand on the question of Afghanistan. Can you explain the situation to us as seen by Syria?

[Answer] As I said, we reviewed the world situation in Afghanistan and elsewhere with regard to the reasons that led to the faltering of the policy of world detente and the impact of this situation on the world as a whole.

With regard to our stand on the question of Afghanistan, on any international or political issue we always discuss our stand and adopt our attitudes in the light of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We have a cause which is related to our existence and our future. Therefore, no voice should be louder or should overpower the voice of this cause.

The Arab cause is in Palestine. When attempts are made to divert the Arabs from the Palestinian cause, certainly this will affect the Arab-Israeli conflict negatively and will not serve the objectives of that conflict. Consequently, our attitude to Afghanistan must be one of trying to keep world attention and Arab attention focused on the Palestinian problem. In fact, the aim of the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli move is to create a new interest for Arab and Muslim attention and to confuse the issue, so that As-Sadat can regain his position in both the Arab and Islamic world. As-Sadat, who has surrendered Jerusalem to Israel, is trying to show concern for Islam. The Americans, who give vast aid to the Israelis to continue their occupation of Jerusalem, the Palestinian territories and other Arab territories, are also showing concern for Islam in Afghanistan.

The Americans, who have threatened the Iranian Revolution, mobilized their naval units, frozen Iranian assets and threatened Iran with economic boycott and even starvation, are showing concern for Islam in Afghanistan. Is Islam in Afghanistan in danger, while Islam in Palestine and Iran is safe and secure?

The matter has nothing to do with Islam or the Muslims; it involves international conflict, the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is not in the Arab and Muslim interest to be tools or fodder for that conflict.

It is on this concept that our policy has been based and from which it proceeds. It was also on this concept that we based our refusal to participate in the Islamic Conference in Islamabad.

Moreover, the Americans are with Israel. If it were not for U.S. military and economic aid to Israel, the Israeli situation would be different; Israel would not be able to continue to subjugate and disperse the Palestinian people or to continue occupying Arab territories. Therefore, the United States is with Israel. The United States considers Israel's security part of its own security. It considers Israel a U.S. forward position. Therefore, our alinement in this international conflict with the Americans would mean alinement with Israel.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union stands on our side and gives us aid and support. Therefore, if we aline ourselves with the Americans against the Soviets, we must expect Soviet military and political support to stop. What will the situation be then? We will be in an extremely bad position. The Americans are against us because they are with Israel, and the Soviets would be against us as well. What would be left for us but to surrender to Israel? Whoever is asking us to think otherwise is asking too much of us. We cannot see any development of world events except in the light of this situation. First we confront Israel. Anything else comes tenth, or even lower.

[Question] Do you expect negative developments in the relations among the Arab states which are hostile to the Camp David policy and which now appear to be divided over the Afghan issue?

[Answer] We care about Arab solidarity and we want it to be complete vis-a-vis the Israeli enemy. The existence of differences in viewpoints among some Arab states on any particular issue must not affect Arab solidarity. As you are aware, we are made up of 21 states and, therefore, 21 policies.

It is natural for there to be differences in viewpoints, especially since these matters have not been put up for discussion by the Arab institutions--that is, they have not been raised at an Arab meeting. Had they been raised and a joint Arab stand reached, it would have been a different matter. But as long as they have not been raised, it is natural for some differences in viewpoints to exist as long as each of us has his own policy. I believe, however, that everybody is adhering to a united stand against the Israeli occupation and the Israeli aggression. What gives expression to this is the raving campaign which the Egyptian president is launching, or rather launched, against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Arab states 2 days ago.

[Question] Then you do not expect the situation in Afghanistan to affect Syrian-Saudi coordination?

[Answer] We believe that the continuation of joint Arab action against Zionism and against occupation and aggression is the basic thing. Within this context, all the Arab states have emphasized their stand and solidarity and continued joint Arab action. As I have said, we are trying to prevent the differences in viewpoints on certain issues from having an effect on the unity of the Arab stand on the principal issue--the issue of Palestine.

[Question] Please explain to us the implications of the withdrawal of some Syrian forces from southern Lebanon, which has been considered to be the result of Israeli concentrations.

[Answer] In fact, there are no Syrian concentrations in Lebanon. All that has happened is that a Syrian unit has withdrawn from Sidon to Al-Biqa'. This bears no relation to the conflict with Israel. We believe that the Lebanese sides must act to remedy the internal situation in Lebanon and to shift from the present state of inaction to that of achieving or reviving the process of national detente and, consequently, restoring normalcy to Lebanon.

[Question] Are new steps expected to be taken in the direction of detente? Is there anything new on this subject, about which the Lebanese are asking daily?

[Answer] To whom do the Lebanese address this question? They must address it to themselves because the matter concerns them. We are prepared to help with everything we can in this direction.

[Question] Are there any new initiatives, particularly on the part of Syria?

[Answer] So far we have nothing specific, but we are trying, through contacts with the various sides, to push things toward national detente. Regrettably, however, the Lebanese sides have not realized how much Lebanon is now suffering and has suffered in the past from the danger of the existing division.

[Question] The conflicting Lebanese sides concur in holding President Sarkis responsible for the deadlocked situation.

[Answer] The fact is that we must not hold any specific side responsible for the stalemate. Inaction is general in Lebanon.

[Question] Let us now move to the Syrian internal situation, about which something was said recently, including the question of the assassination of two Soviet experts.

[Answer] Yes. Two Soviet experts were assassinated in Syria. That was part of the campaign that is being launched against Syria because of its national anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist stance. We realize that whenever our pan-Arab and national stand escalates, we will be subjected to pressures, because Syria is the country which is now standing against the Camp David policy and bearing the burden of this situation. I say that whoever is wagering on the development of the internal situation in Syria is indulging in a great fantasy. Developments will take place in Syria, but only in the direction of strengthening Syria's national position and reinforcing its internal front in order to confront the threats posed by the Zionist enemy and imperialism to the Arab nation and to Syria, which is part of that Arab nation.

KHADDAM DISCUSSES SITUATION IN SYRIA, LEBANON

JN091801 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated that Syria is waging a great pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy and imperialist policy in the area.

In an interview published by the Paris-based magazine AN-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, Khaddam said that Syria's national unity is indubitable and indisputable as far as the Syrian citizen is concerned. He who believes that Zionism can play havoc with Syria's national unity is mistaken.

On the crime pertaining to the destruction of the Syrian Embassy in Paris and its connection with plots that are aimed at weakening Syria's steadfastness, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We are waging a great pan-Arab battle against Israel and the Zionist-imperialist policy in the area. He added: Naturally, the greater our national stand becomes, the stronger the plots become. The incident at the Syrian Embassy in Paris was certainly hatched by Israeli intelligence. I repeat: He who wagers on the developments and on the domestic situation in Syria would be greatly mistaken and would also be gripped with self-delusion, far removed from the simplest facts. At any rate, many people wagered on the situation in Syria and their bet proved to be delusive. The domestic situation in Syria is solid and the existence of some gaps and terrorist acts are ineffective.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that the Israeli intelligence apparatus is behind terrorist operations that are being carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood gang. This apparatus is using some Arab tools to implement terrorist operations that serve Israel's interest.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam added: They are seeking to abrogate Syria's national role in the Arab-Israeli struggle. The Syrian people, however, will continue to be in the forefront against any attempt threatening the Arab homeland.

On the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] operating in Lebanon, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: The withdrawal of a military unit from Tyre should not be given such importance. The domestic situation in Lebanon has long been frozen. All parties are still holding to their positions and have not made any move toward national reconciliation. We hope that our brothers in Lebanon work to restore national reconciliation and to support the march of Lebanon's unity and the unity of its institutions. Our moves have and will continue to fall within this framework. We want the domestic situation in Lebanon to move toward reactivation of the process of national reconciliation.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: We support the entry of the Lebanese army into every inch of the south. This was our position at the summit conference. Our position will continue to be the same, because we believe that the presence of the Lebanese Army is an important national issue. The shouldering of national responsibilities by the Lebanese forces against the Zionist forces is also important and is of political, psychological and moral significance.

Further on Interview

JN092036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Replying to a question about the possibility of an Israeli military strike via southern Lebanon or other routes, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that this is possible within the framework of international developments.

Asked about the Syrian viewpoint of the direct repercussions of the Afghanistan events on the Arab situation as a whole, the deputy prime minister said: Our viewpoint or stand on any event in the world emanates from the repercussions of that event on our struggle with Israel. He said that the information clamor launched by the Camp David trio on the situation in Afghanistan was aimed at covering up the conspiratorial policy in the area--covering up the new link represented by the normalization of relations and the implementation of the self-rule plot between the As-Sadat regime and Israel. He added that the situation in Afghanistan is related to the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is not in the Arabs' interest to be a party to this struggle, because it does not serve the Arabs' principal trend in their struggle against Israel. Accordingly, he added: We had insisted on the call to postpone the Islamic conference for a suitable period so that the Afghanistan issue would not outweigh the issue of Palestine. It is not in the Arabs' interest to be a party to this struggle or to involve themselves and become tools for the Americans, who are always stressing the need to guarantee Israel's security and to supply it with a lot of military equipment, at a time when the Soviets are giving us good assistance and are supporting us in the economic fields, in addition to their military aid against the Israeli aggression. All these considerations dictated the Syrian stand on the Afghanistan events.

On the apprehension of some Arab countries, particularly the oil Gulf states, about the possible transfer of the conflict in Afghanistan to these countries, and about how much Syria shares this apprehension, Khaddam answered: The situation in Afghanistan is a result of the international situation that has prevailed over the past 2 or 3 years. This situation is represented by the Camp David accords. The beginning of the U.S.-PRC alliance, the deployment of Pershing missiles in Europe, the world economic status and its repercussions on the advanced and backward countries, and finally the victory of the Iranian Revolution and the collapse of the shah, who constituted an advanced base for U.S. imperialism in the area.

Khaddam added: The Afghanistan events are a result of this situation. The Arab countries' apprehension about Soviet danger is not based on objective factors. The apprehension should stem from the Israeli presence and the Americans who are endeavoring to entrench and consolidate this presence. The United States is trying to create a mock enemy for the Arabs in order to distract their attention from their real enemy, who exists in Palestine, Jerusalem, Golan and Sinai and in the heart of the Arab homeland.

The issue of apprehension about the possible transfer of the conflict from Afghanistan to Arab and Islamic countries is purely delusive. Islam is well. I do not believe that Islam could be well if it were nurtured by the Americans and the British. For how could they support Islam in Afghanistan and be against it in Palestine and Iran? He said: Islam will be well when the Muslims, particularly the Arabs, move toward Jerusalem. But dragging the Arabs into delusive battles is a serious matter, about which we should be cautious, because the enemies of the Arabs and Islam seek to drag the Arabs into a peripheral battle, one other than that of Palestine and not in the service of this principal battle.

He added: We must have good and developed relations with the Soviet Union.

In a reply to a question, Khaddam said: Our relations with the Soviet Union are good and this is in the interest of all Arabs. He asserted that the divergence of views among some Arab countries on certain international events cannot influence Syria's viewpoint on and concept of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. All the Arabs consider the issue of Palestine to be the principal and central issue. We in Syria will work constantly to strengthen this solidarity as long as it serves the Arab-Israeli struggle.

On the president's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Khaddam said: The outcome of this visit was good. There was full and comprehensive agreement on the importance of consolidating Arab solidarity and the march of joint Arab action.

LEBANESE OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 9 FEB

JN091729 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Kamil al-Asad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Damascus today on a 1-day visit. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border by Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly; Dr Muhsin Bilal, head of the Foreign and Arab Affairs Committee at the assembly and a number of assembly members.

Received by Al-Asad

JN091730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Text] At 1545 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Kamil al-Asad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly speaker Mahmud Hadid, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Earlier, Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm met with Kamil al-Asad and held talks with him. Mahmud Hadid took part in these talks.

Kamil al-Asad arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a 1-day official visit to Syria. Upon his arrival, Al-Asad made a statement to journalists, in which he said: It is natural for us to seek to meet with the brother officials in Syria, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, particularly in this decisive and fateful era of the Arab region's history, in order to hold consultations, exchange viewpoints and clarify concepts and stands. This takes place whenever there are new issues and matters, such as today's issue; namely, the possible withdrawal of the Syrian forces that are operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces from some places in Lebanon.

Asked about current efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon, Al-Asad replied: We listen to proposals that are subject to discussion with all parties. We consider fraternal Syria as a chief party in the issue, in view of Syria's pan-Arab role.

People's Assembly speaker Mahmud Hadid also made a statement, in which emphasized the importance of meetings between the two fraternal countries officials, particularly the Lebanese officials who are directly concerned with solving the situation in Lebanon on a national basis, as well as on the basis of preserving Lebanon's complete unity and its membership within the Arab fold. He added: In light of these circumstances, meetings are necessary, especially after President Hafiz al-Asad's decision to redeploy the Syrian forces in Lebanon in certain places. Militarily, he said, this decision is correct and will place these forces in a better position. He said: This decision--after the security situation is stabilized--requires that the legitimate authority and concerned parties in Lebanon move from this situation to a better one.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm made a similar statement, in which he welcomed Kamil al-Asad and expressed the hope that his talks in Damascus will be positive and achieve good results for both Lebanon and the Arabs.

Leaves Damascus

JN091955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1545 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Kamil al-Asad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly speaker Mahmud Hadid, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During the meeting, talks dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and with the situation in Lebanon. Talks centered particularly on the decision to assemble the Syrian forces that are operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces in Beirut. In this respect, Kamil al-Asad expressed his appreciation of the burdens Syria endured and for sacrifices and efforts Syria has exerted for the safety of Lebanon and the welfare and security of the Lebanese people.

The president reaffirmed that the Syrian forces will always stick to the objectives for which they went to Lebanon.

Al-Asad left Damascus for Beirut at 1830 today. He was seen off by People's Assembly speaker Mahmud Hadid and a number of the assembly members.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES BOURGUIBA'S ENVOY, MESSAGE

JN081259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today Tunisian National Education Minister Mohamed Mzali, who conveyed to the president the greetings of his excellency President Bourguiba, as well as a message from him.

The meeting was attended by Syrian Education Minister Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad and Tunisian Ambassador in Damascus Ferid Soudani. During the meeting, talks were held on the situation in the Arab region.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PDRY 8 FEB

JN082212 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus --A delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the party national command and chief of the foreign relations office, left Damascus for the PDRY tonight.

This visit comes at the invitation of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to hold party and political talks between the two parties. The Ba'th Party delegation will also get acquainted with the YSP's experiences in various spheres. This visit also comes in implementation of the cooperation agreement signed between the two parties.

The Ba'th Party delegation's visit gains importance from the circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing, the thing which calls for prompt action, coordination and the exchange of views between brothers.

The delegation includes Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, member of the party regional command and chief of the economic and financial office, and a number of comrade specialists.

ALGERIA

SIX NEW AMBASSADORS RECEIVED IN ALGIERS

LD081707 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 23 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[APS report: "Six New Ambassadors Present Their Credentials to Head of State"]

[Excerpt] Algiers--President of the Republic and National Liberation Front Secretary General Chadli Bendjedid received the credentials of six ambassadors recently appointed to Algiers at the People's Palace yesterday. These are the ambassadors of Kenya (Mr Raphael Muli Kiilu); Finland, (Mr Somo Olovi Kock); Burundi, (Mr Antoine Ntahokaja); the GDR, (Mr Gerd Berendonck); Venezuela, (Mr Jose Luis Pernia Vega) and Cyprus (Mr Andis Yeoryios Sotiriadhis).

LIBYA

TRIPOLI ON FACTORS OF SUCCESS FOR TUNISIAN 'REVOLUTION'

LD092356 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The revolution carried out by the Tunisian people against corruption, the dictatorial and oppressive regime, injustice and exploitation, the protection of the French, and humiliating subservience is a comprehensive one embracing the masses in Qafsah, Safis, Susah, Qabis, Naftah and in all the Tunisian towns and villages. The comprehensiveness of the popular revolution carried out by the Tunisian masses is coupled with a continuity, because the revolution definitely has the guarantees of continuity. It has finance, equipment and popular mass support. In addition to the comprehensiveness which characterized the popular revolution and its certain capabilities and ability to continue, the popular revolution against the agent regime of the Tunisian protectorate possesses a third element which can be described as being a strategic element, because whoever has this element in any struggle will be the victor in the end. By this strategic element, we mean that the popular revolution in the Tunisian protectorate is fighting on its own ground.

With the fourth element available to the revolution, namely, the support of the world liberation forces for the popular revolution, in addition to the three other elements available to it, namely, the comprehensiveness, continuity and the struggle of the revolution on its own grounds, we reach the conclusion that the popular revolution will settle the current struggle in the Tunisian protectorate in favor of the popular masses and the triumph of freedom

Reliable information indicates that one could say with certainty that there are wide areas in the Tunisian protectorate which are now considered liberated areas controlled by the people and the brave popular resistance. The fortified areas where the forces of the popular revolution are concentrated, which neither the forces of the regime nor the French have dared to approach, are areas which are definitely controlled by the revolution. From these liberated areas, the forces of the revolution are carrying out their brave operations against the camps of the French forces and the military patrols which drive through the streets of the Tunisian capital.

The Tunisian people will not be alone in their battle of destiny. All world freedom forces support the Tunisian people whose voice has reached the United Nations through the committee for combatting imperialism, which has adopted the cause of the Tunisian people for the sake of expelling the French invasion forces from their land. In the same manner, the people of the Jamahiriya will stand by their fraternal Tunisian people against the French invasion.

For if the Tunisian regime's request for help from the French forces and American imperialism produces anything, it will be bloodshed, but it will never realize the objective of imperialism and the agent regime in the protectorate.

AL-QADHDHAFI ON FRANCE'S AFRICAN POLICY, TUNISIA

OW101835 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 10 Feb 80 OW

[By Ali Shubashi]

[Text] Benghazi, Feb. 10 (AFP)--Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi said today that Libya will resort to "every means, including war" in opposing French policy in Africa, a policy he called "colonial" and "interventionist." The Libyan leader told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that since the election of Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and contrary to the "independent" policy of his presidential predecessors, General Charles de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou, France wants to become "the claw to America's paw" on the African Continent.

France, he said, "is not Africa's policeman," adding: "We are determined not to allow foreign interference in the Arab world's affairs." "If there were a confrontation," he said, "it would not be a limited one. We count on extending the fight everywhere we can." On France and the recent incident in Qafsa, Tunisia, he said that "the French forces in Tunisia did not fight foreign forces, but the inhabitants of Qafsa."

He noted that Qafsa is more than 600 km (about 395 miles) from the Libyan frontiers and that immediately after the Qafsa incident "the Tunis regime hesitated to level accusations against Algeria and Libya." Col. al-Qadhafi continued: "All those arrested in Qafsa were not only Tunisians but local people." He challenged anyone to prove that Libya had a hand in the Qafsa incident. He said that Jadaya camp, "where Tunisia claims we train saboteurs, is in fact only a boy scout camp," and said anyone who wanted could come and inspect the camp.

"The struggle in Tunisia," he said, "is between the Tunisian people and the present regime." "We are with the people," he added. "We shall refuse from now on any compromise with the Tunis regime." On Franco-Libyan relations, he said he did not think that "the organs directing the Libyan administration" wanted those relations to worsen, adding that those organs "were even surprised" by France's decision to recall its diplomats from Tripoli."

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S BANGHAZI PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD091213 Tripoli JANA in English 0956 GMT 09 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Benghazi, Feb 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--President Luis Herrera of Venezuela affirmed in a press conference held in Benghazi today that the new experiment practised in the Jamahiriya and stressed by the third universal theory and the dicta of the Green Book are very important for the socio-political and economic liberation of mankind.

He answered a question raised by our correspondent about the political role of the "OPEC" and the stand of his country towards the Palestinian cause, saying that despite the fact that "OPEC" is an economic organization it always aims to restore peace and detente-- and that his country supports the U.N. resolution to solve the problem permanently in the region. And he stressed his appreciation for the two visits he paid to Algeria and the Jamahiriyah during which the efforts will be coordinated for a future common stand.

On the destructive power struggle witnessed in some countries of the world, President Herrera said: "The reason for power struggle has always been economic domination. There are people who are attempting to assert their independence and identity and their right to self-determination. But they clash with the interests of the super powers who had alliances and force their hegemony on them."

President Herrera affirmed the need for the developing countries to defend their political and economic independence and work for an independent economy, a self-[word indistinct] culture and refrain from being attached with those alliances.

He pointed out that the price of oil depends on a number of factors, amongst which is the world market, the quality of oil and the social conditions for the productions. He added that although the situations differ for the different oil producing countries, we are attempting to find a system for unified prices. This will encourage us to establish a new international system in collaboration with the Third World countries and overcome the problems which endanger peace as a result of the intervention of great powers.

He said that his visit reflects the stands of Venezuela and the Indies countries which desire to carry out dialogue with OPEC. He affirmed that his visit gave positive results particularly in the field of bilateral relations between the Jamahiriyah and Venezuela and the consolidation of joint stands in addition to the issue of the development agency which will unite the Third World, not only in the oil field, but for the search for other energy sources.

About the limit of oil production in Venezuela, he said that every oil producing country takes into consideration the development of the market and its needs to determine the level of production. Venezuela started to determine its production level particularly at the beginning of this year.

Ends Visit

LD081409 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Venezuela President Luis Herrera left Benghazi at 1230 this afternoon at the end of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. At Baninah international airport the Venezuelan president was seen off by Colonel al-Qadhafi, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and others.

The Venezuelan president held a press conference at the guest house in Benghazi attended by a large number of correspondents from world news agencies, the press and radio and television.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY TO HAND OVER FATAH CAMPS TO HABASH

NC101018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 February--In its Monday edition, ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine reports that Colonel al-Qadhafi, in his persistent desire to fight and antagonize Fatah, has decided to hand over the Fatah training camps to George Habash's Popular Front.

The magazine says that the Popular Front is expected to exploit some weaklings among the Arabs working in Libya and train them for sabotage operations in their country, as happened in Qafsah in Tunisia.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA SAYS TUNISIA 'IN DANGER,' WILL INFORM UN

PA111244 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 11 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tunis, Feb. 11 (AFP)--Prime Minister Hedi Nouri today said that "Tunisia is in danger". In a response to Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's reported statement that revolutionary struggle will continue until the present Tunisian Government is eliminated, Mr. Nouri told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE his government would "inform the (United Nations) Security Council". Describing the situation as "very serious", he added that his government would take all measures necessary to meet action implied by such declarations.

OAU REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS ATTACK ON QAFSAH

LD091426 Tunis TAP in English 1350 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 9 (TAP)--Tunisia has entered in the agenda of the OAU Board of Ministers, which is presently being held in Addis Ababa, an item relating to the characterized aggression which has been conceived, elaborated and guided on January 27, 1980 by the Libyan regime against the town of Qafsah.

ARAB LEAGUE TO MEET ON LIBYA-TUNISIA CONFLICT

OW101704 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 10 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 10 (AFP)--The Arab League will meet in Tunis next Saturday to discuss the new conflict between Tunisia and Libya, an Arab diplomatic source said here today. The conflict follows a commando attack two weeks ago on a Tunisian army barracks in the southern Tunisian mining town of Qafsah, in which Tunisia said Libya was directly involved. Tunisia has complained about Libya to the League, and Libya has called for an urgent League meeting to examine what it called "the Franco-American military intervention in Tunisia."

BOURGUIBA CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING SECURITY FORCES

OW101842 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 10 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Tunis, Feb. 10 (AFP)--President Habib Bourguiba today told chiefs of the country's armed forces that he wanted national security forces strengthened. At a meeting in Naftah, 60 km (40 miles) south of Qafsah, target of a commando attack two weeks ago, he also received a report from Education Minister Mohamed Mzali on results of talks with "brotherly and friendly" Arab nations about what Tunisia claims are Libyan attempts to "destabilize" Tunisia.

He conveyed "greetings" from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, and "greetings and expressions of solidarity" from Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief Yasir 'Arafat.

Receives Defense Chiefs

LD102103 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, general director of national security, in the presence of Habib Bourguiba, Jr, special adviser to the president, at 1040 today at his residence in Naftah.

At 1115 today President Bourguiba also received the director general of national security and the commanders and chiefs of staff of the three branches of the armed forces, the commander of the national guard, and a number of officers who excelled in confronting the treacherous aggression against Qafsah. The head of state shook their hands individually and thanked them for their response to the sacred duty of defending the homeland whenever the supreme commander of the armed forces called on them to do so. The supreme fighter confirmed to them his determination to consolidate the security forces so as to make them equal to the trust placed in them by the leader of the nation. The meeting was attended by Habib Bourguiba, Jr and the governor of Qafsah.

ENVOY RETURNS FROM DELIVERING BOURGUIBA MESSAGES

LD082326 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Dr Sadok Mokaddem, speaker of the Tunisian National Assembly, returned home after delivering messages from President Habib Bourguiba to King Hassan II of Morocco and President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala of Mauritania.

Dr Sadek Mokaddem said that he explained the flagrant and treacherous aggression waged against Qafsah by the mercenaries mobilized by the ruling regime in Libya. He spoke of the complete understanding and full support which King Hassan II has shown. He said that Morocco is ready to support Tunisia in all the measures it takes or stands it adopts in this regard, particularly at the Arab League.

Dr Sadek Mokaddem said that President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala also showed full understanding and sympathy with Tunisia regarding the aggression against Qafsah.

He also said that the Moroccan king and Mauritanian president asked him to convey messages of cordiality and appreciation to great struggler Habib Bourguiba.

COMMUNIST PARTY CRITICIZES 'LIBYAN INTERFERENCE'

LD110919 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 4 Feb 80 p 10 LD

[Unattributed report: "United States: Helicopters and Armored Divisions"]

[Excerpt] In a statement [on the Qafsah incidents] published in Tunis, the Tunisian Communist Party condemned "the Libyan Government's interference and its claim to impose its will" as well as "the insane armed undertaking of a group of Tunisians acting on a simplistic and false plan divorced from the reality of the country." The Tunisian Communists believe "the best way to insure the country's independence and security does not rest in foreign military support, from France and America, but in the true mobilization of the whole patriotic vigor of the Tunisian citizens."

CABINET APPROVES PRINCIPLE OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN HEBRON

TA101305 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Cabinet has decided in principle that there is nothing to prevent Jews from living in Hebron as in any other place in Eretz Yisra'el. But it did not decide today when the Jewish houses in the city would be populated. The issue will be raised again next week. The decision also said that the government will also act toward strengthening Qiryat Arba'.

In the Cabinet discussion there were two groups of ministers--one, headed by Ari'el Sharon and Herut movement ministers except for 'Ezer Weizman, demanded that several houses in Hebron be populated at once. The second group, comprising 'Ezer Weizman, the Democratic Movement ministers and the Liberal Party ministers, with the exception of Minister Nisim, asked that the populating of the houses be postponed at this stage. In the end, a compromise proposal submitted by the prime minister was accepted--the right in principle to settle in the town but without determining a date.

Further Details on Meeting

TA101542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpts] The Cabinet says it is both Israel's interest and hope that quiet prevails on the northern border. It approved the security measures taken in view of the Syrian Army's movements in Lebanon. On this issue the Cabinet sat in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and heard Minister Weizman's review of the situation on the border.

The government legal adviser, who submitted his opinion on the legal status of five houses in Hebron, stated that two of these houses answer the legal requirements and in this sense can be immediately occupied. The two houses in question are adjacent to the Avraham Avinu Synagog. However, Professor Zamir told our correspondent that ultimately the decision is not legal but political.

A rally is now being held in the Avraham Avinu Synagog with the participation of about 500 Qiryat Arba' residents and sympathizers from Judaea and Samaria settlements. Rabbi Waldman from Qiryat Arba' said he will declare the renewal of the Jewish community in Hebron at the rally. This afternoon there will be a ceremony marking the beginning of construction on the new town of Efrat opposite Gush 'Ezyon. Ministers Burg, Hammer and Levi will participate in this ceremony. David Levi said that 5,000 families will live in Efrat.

The Cabinet decided to transfer to the Construction Ministry the remainder of the settlement budget. It seems that most of the money will be used for the construction of 1,400 housing units beyond the Green Line, especially in Qiryat Arba', Efrat, Ma'ale Efrayim and Qazrin.

The Foreign Ministry's director general submitted an official protest in Israel's name to Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, concerning the anti-Israel remarks made by Egyptian deputy prime minister, Hasan at-Tuhami.

The Cabinet endorsed the appointment of Matityahu Shmuelelevitz as the director general of the prime minister's office, replacing Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, who will be Israel's ambassador in Cairo.

There has been a certain increase in the housing and security budgets, while the Interior Ministry budget was decreased by about 2 percent. The budgets of the other ministries were cut by 6 percent.

Our correspondent, Gidon Zellinger, has learned this from Yisrael Arkin, the director of the Foreign Ministry's budget office. Our correspondent predicts that the rate of inflation in the coming fiscal year will be 85 percent, and the exchange rate will reach 64 pounds per dollar by the end of the fiscal year. The Cabinet decided today that the new budget will be 653 billion Israeli pounds at next year's prices. This sum is based on the estimate of prices for the first half of the fiscal year. Another readjustment of prices will be made for the second half of the fiscal year without adding--in real terms--to the budget framework.

MENAHEM BEGIN, 'EZER WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED BY AL-AHRAM

Menahem Begin Interview

NC101157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 February--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has stressed that Egypt and Israel will reach the end of the road to Peace in spite of the obstacles which now appear. He expressed happiness that Egypt and Israel are truly implementing--and in good spirit--all that had been agreed upon and said: I may differ with President as-Sadat but we are friends, and I believe that everything will proceed for the better.

Regarding the differences between the Egyptian and the Israeli sides over the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, Menahem Begin said in an interview published in AL-AHRAM today:

We have proposed what we believe to be an appropriate model for the powers of the autonomy, and the Egyptians on their part have presented a working paper of a model which they believe to be appropriate for autonomy. However, the Egyptian model exceeds the provisions of the Camp David accord.

Answering a clarification by the paper to the effect that the Egyptian model is based on the Camp David accord provision of full autonomy--which simply means that all powers should stem from within this autonomy as otherwise it would not be full autonomy--the Israeli prime minister said that this is what the Egyptian side says in the negotiations. He noted that there are those who believe that the autonomy agreement means the establishment of a Palestinian state and reaffirmed Israel's rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state because, as Begin said, this would be a Soviet base, which represents a direct threat to Israel's security.

Answering a question to the effect that Israel's settlements policy in the occupied West Bank will not encourage any Palestinian or other sides to join the peace efforts, Menahem Begin reiterated his well-known claims that Israel was entitled to settlements in Judea and Samaria which are part of Israel as provided in the Torah.

Regarding the Oriental Jews withdrawal of their support to the Likud, which is led by Begin, because the Likud spent hundreds of millions on building settlements instead of improving the condition of its voters, Menahem Begin said that Israel is in fact facing economic difficulties and that the Likud is determined to implement its program to improve the condition of those Jews. He said that there is an inclination to restructure the Likud to become a party instead of a party grouping.

Regarding Yigal Allon's statement that the Labor Party intends to bring the downfall of the Likud, the Israel prime minister said: If my friends want me to stay, I might stay; if they seek my withdrawal, I have no choice but to leave.

Weizman Interviewed

TA110525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The defense minister is inviting the Jordanian king to visit Jerusalem and speak to the Israeli Knesset. But admits that the problems involved in solving the Palestinian issue are very involved. 'Ezer Weizman made these remarks in an interview published in the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM.

He says that all notables in the territories are united in their demand for a Palestinian state while all Israelis, Weizman says, reject this totally. Despite this the defense minister is optimistic. He believes that Israel and Egypt will consolidate an agreement in the autonomy talks within 2 months because there is simply no choice.

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR CAIRO EMBASSY

TA081304 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[Text] The rank of the military attaches in the Israeli and Egyptian embassies, which will be opened in Cairo and in Tel Aviv respectively, will be determined by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian defense minister Gen Hasan Kamal 'Ali in a meeting to be held at the end of this month. When General 'Ali visits Israel, the two will discuss this issue and decide on the rank of the attaches and their scope of duties.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that new appointments to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo have been made. 'Uzi Netan'el has been appointed economic adviser, Dr Aharon Barne'a has been appointed the embassy spokesman. In addition, it has been decided that the director of the government press office, Ze'ev Hefetz, will assist the embassy during the first stages of its organization and will also go to Egypt.

EGYPT CONTINUES SEARCH FOR EMBASSY SITE

TA100714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Israel is to be temporarily housed in a hotel even if a suitable building is found. This will enable alterations to be made in whatever building is found. This was reported to our correspondent, Dan Eshel, by the head of the Egyptian delegation seeking a building for the Egyptian Embassy. He also said that for the time being the delegation has not decided on any specific building.

Today and tomorrow the Egyptians will continue to look into other offers and will probably return to Egypt the day after tomorrow.

Our correspondent Yigal Rom reports that the official opening of the embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv will be postponed for 3 days, because the day determined for the opening of the embassies--15 February--falls on a Friday.

EGYPTIAN NORMALIZATION DELEGATION DEPARTS

TA081243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Feb 80 TA

[Text] In Tel Aviv, the talks with the Egyptian team for supervision and coordination of the normalization have ended. Head of the Egyptian delegation, General al-Majdub, met with the defense minister at noon today.

Mr Weizman said progress had been achieved in the talks, that there are no problems and that we shall proceed according to plan. General al-Majdub told our correspondent, Dan Eshel, that for the time being a sufficient number of subcommittees has been established for handling the various fields of normalization. The process will continue in accordance with the Camp David accords. Also the head of the Israeli team, Avraham Tamir, said that the subcommittees that had been established were sufficient for the time being.

This morning, the heads of the Egyptian delegation made a helicopter tour over Jerusalem and over Judea and Samaria.

JERUSALEM SOURCES DENY PLAN FOR EARLY SINAI WITHDRAWAL

TA091105 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have said that an Egyptian request for the early evacuation of the rest of Sinai has not been discussed. Thus, the sources have denied a report that appeared this morning in the Cairo weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM. The report said that Israel might evacuate the remainder of Sinai 1 year before the date provided in the peace agreement. The weekly added that the matter will be discussed in the next meeting between Minister Ezer Weizman and Hasan Ali--a meeting that is to take place in Tel Aviv.

As has been said, political sources in Jerusalem have denied this report.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AVIATION TALKS

TA101208 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Progress has been made in the civil aviation talks between Israel and Egypt. This is reported today by the chairman of the committee dealing with the issue, Transport Ministry Director General Shilo. The committee is continuing its deliberations in Egypt and it is reported that both sides wish to reach agreement soon.

MAPAM DELEGATION MEETS EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS

TA101104 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Feb 80 p 11 TA

[By Moshe Meisels]

[Excerpt] Egyptian deputy prime minister and secretary general of the Egyptian National Democratic Party, Fikri Makram Ubayd, last night told the MAPAM delegation--which is currently visiting Cairo--that peace in the Middle East could not become a reality unless a solution was found to the problem of Jerusalem.

In a telephone call this morning, a member of the MAPAM delegation, Dov Zakin, said that in their meeting with the heads of the Egyptian party the members of the Israeli delegation had submitted Ya'akov Hazan's plan regarding Jerusalem.

Ubayd said that the Arabs and the Muslims would not accept peace unless East Jerusalem is returned to their control. In their meeting, the Egyptian representatives and the MAPAM delegation reached an agreement on several points. However, they differ over the Palestinian problem, the question of Jerusalem and Israel's security borders.

At a 2-hour meeting yesterday, the head of the Egyptian presidential office, Hasan Kamal, told the MAPAM delegation, headed by Me'ir Talmi, that Egypt was aware of Israel's security needs and that these were taken into consideration in each and every move made in the course of the peace negotiations.

However, at the same time, a permanent solution had to be found to the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of their right for self-determination.

PERES COMMENTS ON W. BANK ELECTIONS, HEBRON SETTLEMENT

Peres Desires Early Elections

TA091207 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Labor Party chief Shim'on Peres believes that if elections in Judaea and Samaria are held, the new mayors to be elected might become partners in the negotiations. These remarks are included in an interview published this week in the Labor Party monthly.

On another matter Peres says that Israel has to prove that the agreement with Egypt is not a separate agreement and, to this end, action must be taken to make progress on the Palestinian issue and the issue of the territories.

Opposes Hebron Settlement

TA110904 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[Excerpt] "We are against settlement in Hebron. We have always said that we would oppose settlement inside a settlement, which is nothing but the creation of a state of constant conflict," Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the first lecture he made since his return from Europe. Peres added that there were grounds for concern if Begin's policy was implemented and there was settlement in Hebron or Nabulus. In such a case, Egypt might turn its back on us within a certain time.

As for the Likud policy concerning the future of the territories, Peres said: "What will we look like, as a country of 3 million Jews and 2 million Arabs, if we do not know how to regularize our relations with 600,000 Israeli Arabs?"

Referring to the developments across the northern border, Peres said that it was clear that the Soviet foreign minister had promised the Syrians, apart from new weapons, Soviet involvement if Israel attacks Syria. But the disturbing question is whether the Soviets will help Syria if and when it attacks Israel.

Peres gained the impression from his talks with members of the Socialist International that it is believed in Europe that it is still possible to return to detente. As for Europe's position on the Middle East, "Many people see our region as being like a painting by Rembrandt: the bright red color of communism against a dark background of religious fanaticism." Mr Peres added: "The world is not particularly interested in the type of solution to the Middle East dispute. But there is a desire for some sort of a solution, together with a worried anticipation concerning a continuation of the conflict."

AFGHANISTAN

PDPA SENDS GREETINGS TO PANAMANIAN COMMUNISTS

LD072110 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] The information department of the foreign minister reports that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee has sent the following message to the People's Party of Panama: [PPP] Central Committee:

Dear comrades of the PPP Central Committee, we convey to you our warmest and most cordial greetings on the occasion of the third congress of the PPP, and through you, to the participants of the congress and all the members of your party and your people.

The third congress of the PPP begins its work under conditions when the heroic people of Panama, under the leadership of the PPP, and as a result of the fruitful and persistent anti-imperialist struggles, succeeded in liberating the Panama Canal, which has become part of your country's territory. The significance of this victory for the people of Panama is wider than the confines of your country. The leaders of the toilers of Afghanistan welcome the active participation of the PPP in the general anti-imperialist and anti dictatorship movement of the masses of Latin America, as well as your courageous struggle for the sake of the complete national independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Panama, your earnest support of peace, your struggle for democracy and social progress, which constitute our common aim, and, finally, your recent international and serious struggle in opposing to the residence in Panama of the deposed shah of Iran, this killer of tens of thousands of patriotic Iranians.

450 FAMILIES RETURN TO HOMES IN DISTRICT OF HERAT

LD082032 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Feb 80 LD

[Text] A total of 450 families who left their homes in the district of Herat because of the treachery and injustice against the people and the country by Amin--the disgraced spy of U.S. imperialism--returned to their homes in the past week with a sense of security and freedom after hearing the historic national speech delivered on 27 December by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

On these families' behalf, a number of elders held a meeting with Mir [name indistinct], governor of Herat, and expressed their support for and total cooperation with the evolution of the new phase of the Saur Revolution. They strongly condemned the murderous acts of Amin and his criminal band against the oppressed people of Afghanistan, and said they were willing to fight to the end for Afghanistan's independence and national sovereignty against the forces of reaction and the known enemies of the Afghan people.

The governor of Herat thanked them for their expressions of patriotism.

KABUL DENIES AFP REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY FIRE

GF091730 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 80 GF

[Text] A fire broke out in the Jomhuriyat market on 3 February. AFP carried a report contradicting this fact and claiming that the fire had broken out at the Communications Ministry center in Kabul.

Everyone knows the facts of this false report. Not a single government building has been damaged. We here in Kabul have not seen such a fire. AFP, however, saw this fire from a distance of thousands of kilometers. Such is the honesty, honor and conscience of the press.

CABINET MEETS UNDER KARMAL 9 FEBRUARY

GF101555 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 10 Feb 80 GF

[Text] The cabinet held a session under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, yesterday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Revolutionary Council headquarters, and while discussing proposals submitted by some ministries, it took decisions on a number of subjects.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR

LD092103 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Text] An agreement on the economic and technical cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR was signed this morning in Kabul. On the Afghan side the document was signed by Fateh Mohammad Farin, deputy minister of planning, and for the GDR by Horst Soelle, GDR foreign trade minister.

According to the agreement the GDR will provide the capital for a number of communication development and electrical energy projects. Present at the signing ceremony were officials of the Ministry of Planning and the ambassador of the GDR in Kabul.

DEPUTY PREMIER SARWARI TOURS BALKH PROVINCE

LD092053 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] "Asadollah Sarwari, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, deputy of the Revolutionary Council presidium and deputy premier, left at 1100 today for Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of Balkh Province, to inspect the ports of that province." Sarwari was accompanied by [names indistinct] and was "welcomed at Mazar-e Sharif airport by the governor of Balkh, Dr (Sayyed) Ahmad 'Abawi, Eng [name indistinct] provincial party secretary, members of the provincial party, commanders of the army and police." Sarwari then went to the shrine of 'Ali at the center of Mazar-e Sharif.

Speaks to Groups

LD102153 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Text] At a meeting of the party committee in Balkh yesterday Asadollah Sarwari said that anyone who wants to create disunity and conflict (?within) the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and the democratic and national forces of our country will be condemned by history.

Asadollah Sarwari, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA, member of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, and his entourage took part at 1400 yesterday in the meeting of the Balkh Province party (?activists) which was held in the auditorium of the oil and gas technical institute at Mazar-e Sharif.

In a speech he said: I am glad to meet with you revolutionary comrades in person and to convey to you the warm and comradely greetings of Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister. He said, I congratulate you upon the new phase in the evolution of the Saur Revolution which is in accordance with the will of our toiling people and has been accomplished by the victorious and freedom-seeking army under the guidance of the united PDPA, and the leadership of Babrak Karmal for the benefit of our oppressed people.

Asadollah Sarwari, criticizing the inhuman and criminal acts of Amin and his fascist band added: The success that has come to the people of Afghanistan today has not been an easy feat, but is the result of total and continuous struggle, patriotism and sacrifice of the best sons of our country, Afghanistan. It is our duty now to preserve this with unity and sacrifices.

The member of the presidium of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, outlining the unity of the party he said: We must admit the mistakes of the past and do our utmost in avoiding their repetition.

A BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reporter adds that the member of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister and his entourage went yesterday at 1700 to the tomb of martyrs in Dashte (Shahian) at Mazar-e Sharif and after prayer placed a wreath on their graves. Asadollah Sarwari at this moment said: We are paying our respect to the true sons who lost their lives in fulfilling sacred wishes and at the same time we promise that in reaching the advanced stage in the evolution of the Saur Revolution we will sacrifice all our (?belongings) and will follow this course with revolutionary courage.

According to another report Asadollah Sarwari, with the minister of transport and tourism, and the general commander of air defence who were accompanying him, went to inspect the Hairatan Port and arrived there at 1030 today.

The member of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister was welcomed by the governor of Samangan, the provincial party secretary, members of the Samangan party organization and the director, workers and officials of the port of Hairatan.

Asadollah Sarwari, in a speech to the workers of the port of Hairatan said: I am glad to meet with you noble workers and officials in person. I convey to you the warm greetings of Babrak Karmal and also members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of PDPA, and members of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA. He added: Our people in the past proud history of ours have accomplished revolutionary struggles in order to win their independence and freedom in our proud country, Afghanistan. Our dear country was the first country in the east to end British colonialism; today we are in sensitive historical conditions and once again the enemies of the people of Afghanistan with the leadership of American imperialism are conspiring against the gains of the Saur Revolution with imperialist forces and are making poisonous propaganda. We are certain that our noble and toiling people under the leadership of the PDPA with unity and total solidarity will neutralize the imperialist propaganda and will regain success for our people. Asadollah Sarwari made public the dark crimes of Amin and his bloody band. Regarding the brotherly aid of the USSR, Asadollah Sarwari said: Our people have a traditional friendship and relations with the people of the USSR which stretch back over 62 years. In those years the USSR has not only given us economic, social and cultural aid but has brought about many great developments in this respect. He added that the USSR is never acquisitive for anybody's territory or country, but seriously supports the independence of nations and is (?opposed) to the imperialist encroachment on others territory. The USSR (?in view of the external threat) has given us worthy assistance which will be inscribed in the pages of the history of both countries.

The member of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister mentioned with gratitude the hard work of the workers of the port of Hairatan and hoped that they would carry forward their assigned duties in the spirit of patriotism and revolutionary fervor.

Afterwards the governor of Samangan made a speech welcoming the arrival of Asadollah Sarwari, member of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister of the DRA and assured him of the unity and solidarity of the port workers and officials in supporting the new phase of the Sawr Revolution's evolution.

Afterwards Asadollah Sarwari visited the various parts of the port of Hairatan and regarding the extension of the works of the port he gave necessary instructions to officials concerning the extension of port facilities. Asadollah Sarwari returned to the city of Mazar-e Sharif at 1330.

KARMAL RECEIVES REPLY TELEGRAM FROM BANI-SADR

LD102118 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The information department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that a telegram has been received from His Excellency Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in reply to one on the occasion of his appointment as the first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Babrak Karmal, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR GENEVA

LD102139 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The information department of the Foreign Ministry reports that 'Abdol Hadi Mokamal, political deputy of that ministry, at 0930 today headed a delegation to participate in the annual human rights commission meeting in Geneva. The chief of protocol and some of the officials of that ministry saw him off at the airport.

AFP: INDIAN JOURNALIST INTERVIEWS BABRAK KARMAL

OW090609 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 9 Feb 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 9 Feb (AFP)--Karmal is not in favour of an immediate Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, writes the special envoy of the INDIAN EXPRESS, Mr. Kuldip Nayar, writer and journalist, who met in Kabul the new Afghan president, Mr. Babrak Karmal.

"Babrak Karmal said that it is neither possible nor necessary to set any time-limit for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from his country" writes the Indian journalist who adds that the Afghan president told him: "as long as there are dangers from outside, the Russians will stay".

"Mr. Karmal is not opposed to any regional initiative, adds Kuldip Nayar, but he does not want General Zia of Pakistan to play any role in it since he, according to the Afghan president, is a lackey of American and of Zionist forces."

"The Afghan president was quite firm and categorical on the need for Soviet presence in the country," writes the Indian journalist; "he gave me the impression that the withdrawal of Russian forces was no where in his priorities." "When pressed to spell out conditions for the Russian withdrawal," adds the Indian journalist, he said that "the day the reactionary Pakistan, chauvinist China, imperialist America and Britain, and Zionist Egypt are defeated in their ugly plan to dismember Afghanistan, the Russians will go back."

Explaining how the Russian intervention took place he told the INDIAN EXPRESS special envoy: "It is the same way as you Indians went to Bangladesh at the request of the people to stop Pakistan's atrocities."

"Mr. Karmal alleged that there was a joint plot by the Americans, the Chinese and the Pakistanis to attack Afghanistan on January 6. "In fact the plan of Western imperialists and Zionist forces included Pakistan's scheme to take revenge on India for the liberation of Bangladesh and to grab Kashmir," Mr Karmal said.

The INDIAN EXPRESS special envoy adds: "The Afghan president said that seven groups of anti-revolutionary forces were operating from Pakistan. They had established 20 bases and 50 camps, some of them are around Peshawar, Chitral, Quetta, Miran Shah and Nowhera. Bandits have been trained and equipped by Islamabad, Beijing and Washington."

On Indo-Afghan relations, President Karmal said: "India and Afghanistan have always been very friendly. We supported you at the time of the Kashmir war, the 1962 Chinese aggression and the Bangladesh war. In our view, progressive and great India is our best friend."

KARMAL EXPRESSES INTEREST IN VISITING INDIA

BK090717 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 9 Feb (AFP)--Afghan President Babrak Karmal has expressed a readiness to visit India if invited by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the TIMES OF INDIA reported today in a dispatch from Kabul.

The independent daily said Mr. Karmal had made this clear to an unidentified correspondent after meeting a special envoy from Mrs. Gandhi in Kabul yesterday. The envoy had carried a message to the Afghan leader expressing Mrs. Gandhi's hope "that Soviet troops would be withdrawn from the country when their task is completed," the report said.

AMIN FAMILY REPORTEDLY RELEASED UNDER KARMAL AMNESTY

BK100702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0526 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 10 Feb (AFP)--Members of the family of slain Afghan President Hafizollah Amin, taken prisoner after the coup last December, have been freed in the latest stage of the general amnesty for political prisoners declared by President Babrak Karmal, the TIMES OF INDIA reported today.

The unsourced report from Kabul said that with their release, the official number of political prisoners left in Pol-e Charki prison on the outskirts of the capital had been reduced to 42, though unofficial sources put the figure much higher.

CONTINUING SOVIET BUILDUP REPORTED BY AFP

BK081526 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[By Michael Lewis]

[Text] Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, 8 Feb (AFP)--There is no lull in the Soviet military build-up in Afghanistan. Six weeks after sweeping Babrak Karmal into power, Soviet troops and equipment are still being airlifted into Kabul night and day and massive military convoys were seen by this AFP correspondent in bus journeys over the past 2 days on the road north to Mazir-e Sharif about 30 kms (19 miles) from the Soviet border.

The road to Mazar is almost a constant stream of military and allied vehicles. Light tanks and eight-wheeled armoured personnel carriers (APCs) are at every entrance and exit of the 3,700 metres (nearly 12,000 feet) high Salang Kowtal-e Pass and its strategic 3-kilometer tunnel built by the Russians almost 14 years ago.

Every bridge along the route has at least two armoured personnel carriers either side of it, and where the Stikhrud (?Gonduz) River cuts the town of Dowshi 120 kms (75 miles) north of here there were six APCs and two light tanks guarding it.

Almost all the cliff-clinging villages along the narrow pass had at least one house taken over by the Soviets with their familiar grey fur hat and red hammer and sickle emblem easily distinguishable. The AFP correspondent in a public bus at one stage caught up to a convoy of at least 70 vehicles carrying soldiers, ammunition and oil, as well as timber, potatoes, wheat and onions. It was heading south towards the Salang Kowtal-e Pass and Kabul.

At one stage the convoy came under brief light fire from somewhere in the surrounding hills and escort armoured carriers quickly wheeled round and sent bursts of 73-mm fire into the mountain targets which were impossible to see. Later, while waiting to enter one part of the Salang Kowtal-e Pass, a convoy of tanks and trucks drawing a 16-strong artillery battery passed in the opposite direction. The battery could have been flown into Kabul airport earlier this week before heading for the northeastern areas where rebel resistance to the Soviets is said to be strongest.

Yesterday, on the way to Mazar also by public bus as journalists are not supposed to leave Kabul without permission and no taxi will take them, huge convoys were seen heading south. They were again loaded with timber, which is in chronic supply in Afghanistan due to the severe winter, as well as fule and foodstuffs. Most APC vehicles accompanying the convoy, which comprised chiefly blue-nosed supply vehicles bearing the Soviet CCCP marking, also carried logs.

Heading north from Kabul the first major concentration of Soviet strength after Salang Kowtal-e Pass is Khenjan 100 kms (60 miles) from the capital. The Soviets appear to have established a divisional headquarters there. All the major buildings in the small town are occupied by Soviet officers and the roof of the municipal building has sprouted a cluster of radar antennas on its roof. The town is packed with Soviet soldiers and their accompanying light tanks, APCs and trucks as well as bulldozers to clear the snow.

But by far the biggest concentration of Soviet armour in the region is a few kilometers south of Pol-e-khomri, a town 150 kms (95 miles) from Kabul. In a vast plain at the foot of the mountains the Soviets have stationed hundreds of military vehicles, many of them camouflaged.

The site is guarded by heavy tanks with guns pointing both into the mountains and to the main road. It was impossible to identify all the vehicles in the camp, but again they included tanks, APCs, trucks, oil tankers, artillery pieces, and long-range mortars. The site has clearly been chosen as an assembly point since it is only a few kilometers from where the two main roads of the north meet, from Qonduz, directly north, and Mazar-e Sharif to the northwest. The Soviets have also set up a complex radar network with at least 10 dish scanners on the hills close to the site.

As the bus passed the camp today a 20-strong military column was about to head south. It was less than 20 kms (12 miles) further south that the bus became caught up with the much larger column which came under fire. Even the camps around Kabul itself seem to have been strengthened and it was noticeable that at the camp on the northern outskirts, guns which only a few weeks ago were pointing away from the city are now pointing towards it.

PAKISTANIS, POSSIBLY CHINESE, REPORTED FIGHTING IN KONARHA

BK100654 Hong Kong AFP in English 0649 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Feb (AFP)--Pakistani troops in Afghan dress, fighting side by side with Moslem insurgents, have pinned down Soviet forces at Konarha, alongside the Pakistan border, the newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS reported today.

In a Kabul-dated dispatch, the paper said there were indications that Chinese irregulars had also joined the 25,000-strong combined forces, which reportedly had immobilized one and a half Soviet divisions, or about 16,000 men.

The report said the guerrillas and the Pakistani troops in traditional salwar and kameez loose-fitting Afghan garb had been operating from Chitral in Pakistan and the moon-like terrain of Qal'eh-ye Panjeh stretching into China.

SOVIET TANK COLUMN SUFFERS 'HEAVY LOSSES'

BK101418 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 10 Feb (AFP)--A Soviet armoured column suffered heavy losses in northeast Afghanistan from attacks by Afghan rebels, rebel supporters claimed here today. The newly-formed Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan said that out of almost 200 tanks and other armoured vehicles which crossed the Soviet border at Eshkashem only 30 reached the town of Fayzabad, capital of the Afghan province of Badakhshan, where they were blockaded.

The alliance, which based its statement on the reports of rebels, said that the remaining Soviet vehicles were repulsed in the action, which occurred about a week ago. The rebels were also said to have recaptured their supply depot at Baharaq, which had been taken by the Soviets a few days previously.

Further west, but still in Badakhshan, the alliance said that another Soviet armoured column had been attacked between Tarhar [?Takhar] and Doshin. More than 20 tanks had been destroyed and their occupants killed, and Keshin was under rebel control. The alliance said that the news was the most recent obtainable from this region of Afghanistan because of its distance and the current weather problems. Two of the five rebels who brought the report were said to have been killed on the way by an avalanche.

AFP: GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY EXPELS WESTERN NEWSMEN

OW101933 Hong Kong AFP in English 1930 GMT 10 Feb 80 OW

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 10 Feb--The new Afghan authorities today apparently closed the door to Western journalists for an indefinite period, expelling four foreign correspondents immediately when they flew into Kabul from Pakistan.

One security service official said that all Western newsmen staying at Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel would be expelled tomorrow on a flight to New Delhi, India.

From now on, the press will only be represented in Afghanistan by "friendly" journalists, as they are called in the Afghan capital, namely representatives of the communist press, from Eastern Europe and otherwise. Their headquarters is the Kabul Hotel in the center of town also patronized by Soviet civilian advisers, official government guests and the personnel of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline.

Airport police, upon finding that four foreigners arriving today were reporters, began by taking their passports. Then they consulted what was either a list of names or a set of directives. Finally they asked if the four travellers had a letter of accreditation from the Afghan ambassador in Islamabad the Pakistani capital. This seemed a complete reversal of rules, because Afghan authorities had let it be known that their country's representatives abroad were no longer empowered to deliver visas. Such visas, newsmen knew, could instead be obtained at Kabul airport.

The police then called some unspecified higher authority and came back with the information that no Western journalists would henceforth be admitted, adding that a decision to that effect had been taken a week ago.

Last month, American correspondents were the first to be expelled. Then the mobility of remaining correspondents was considerably restricted with new orders that all interviews and photographing as well as travel outside of the capital had to be submitted to the authorities for special authorization.

Delhi Afghan Embassy Denial

BK110929 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 11 Feb (AFP)--The Afghan Embassy here today discounted reports that Western journalists were being expelled en masse from Afghanistan. An embassy spokesman said no such indication had been received from Kabul, which was still issuing visas to newsmen on a case-by-case basis at the airport, as far as he knew.

Yesterday, AFP correspondent Erwan Journad, who was turned back at the airport, quoted an official as saying all Western newsmen at Kabul's biggest hotel were being put on a flight out today.

MONTSAME INTERVIEWS LAND REFORM MINISTER

OW080412 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1825 GMT 5 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 5 Feb (MONTSAME)--Afghanistan's agriculture was undermined during the period of Amin's regime which adversely affected the living standards of the people and damaged industry and foreign trade. In the new stage of the April Revolution the tasks of liquidating these consequences will be solved mainly by raising the productivity of farming and livestock breeding, developing state and cooperative farms, and encouraging production on individual farms said Fazl Rahim Mohamand, minister of agriculture and land reform of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in an interview with a MONTSAME correspondent.

Stressing the difficulties being encountered by the country's agriculture, the Afghan minister noted that the people's government considers land reforms aimed at doing away with feudal relations to be one of the major tasks. On the eve of the April Revolution a quarter of all cultivated land was owned by 3 percent of the big landholders. Presently the lands have been transferred to the peasants free of charge and without indemnity on the basis of fair distribution. Today 1,145 cooperatives control 20 percent of the arable land. Land has also been transferred to state farms and other organizations and 4 million hectares of land are being cultivated in Afghanistan, F.R. Mohamand said.

The minister of agriculture and land reform of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan also stressed that the feudalists and enemies of the Afghan revolution are fiercely resisting the new transformations and have resorted to terror and sabotage. Using the extremely reactionary section of the Muslim clergy, they are attempting to incite ordinary believers against the revolutionary power. However, the peasants are quickly ridding themselves of age-old feudal bondage, he said.

REBEL LEADER ON POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF KARMAL

OW092112 Hong Kong AFP in English 2100 GMT 9 Feb 80 OW

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 9 Feb (AFP)--The Soviet Union wants to replace Babrak Karmal as leader of Afghanistan and may even try to bring back King Mohammed Zahir Shah, who was deposed in 1973, a rebel leader said today.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who heads the Hezbi-e Eslami Afghanistan, also said fighting in Afghanistan has intensified recently, particularly in the northern Badakhshan Province and near the town of Baghlan. As the resistance continues, Russian troops have also become more brutal, stealing, pillaging and killing in Takhar and Qonduz Provinces in the northeast of Afghanistan, the rebel leader said.

Mr Hikmatyar, whose organization is one of the principal groups fighting the Moscow-installed regime in Kabul, said the Soviet Union is unhappy with Mr. Karmal and hopes to find a new Afghan chief by the spring. Mr. Hikmatyar quoted political sources as saying that Moscow would like to replace Mr. Karmal with General Abdul Qader, one of the key figures behind Afghanistan's first Marxist coup in April of 1978. "If the Soviets do not succeed in this operation, they will try to install in power ex-King Zahir Shah, whom they see as acceptable to both West and East," he told a news conference in this town near the Afghan border.

The 65-year-old Zahir Shah ruled Afghanistan for nearly 40 years until he was overthrown by Mohammed Daud in July of 1973. The former monarch is currently in exile in Rome. Mr. Hikmatyar said, however, that Afghans would never accept a regime imposed on them by an outside power. "The Afghan people will not lay down their arms until the foreign forces are chased from Afghanistan," he said.

Mr. Hikmatyar, an engineer, is one of the founders of the "Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan," formed several days ago to unify six groups opposing Marxist rule in the Asian nation. He said the alliance was planning to form a supreme council and elect a president by next month.

BANGLADESH

AFP VIEWS CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN COUNTRY

BK081319 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Dacca, 8 Feb (AFP)--As opposition political parties in Bangladesh are trying for a showdown with the government both within and outside the parliament, President Ziaur Rahman has sent an appeal to parliamentarians "to nourish and sustain the democracy restored in Bangladesh after a painstaking process."

Parliament is due to begin its winter session tomorrow in Dacca amid the decision by all opposition and independent members yesterday to boycott the opening session and also a call by 10 opposition political parties for a 6-hour general strike throughout Bangladesh tomorrow.

President Zia, who had been meeting members of parliamentary party of his 18-month-old party, BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], during the last 2 days in Dacca, was quoted as saying that the country had painstakingly effected transition from martial law to full democracy which now must be nourished and sustained.

He stressed that the 330-seat parliament elected just a year back with the BNP having over a two-thirds majority "must function as an effective symbol of the people's hopes and aspirations."

Members of opposition parties and an independent group numbering about 85, who early last month submitted to the president a charter of demands calling for more powers for parliament members, yesterday decided not to attend tomorrow's session scheduled to be addressed by President Zia. They have also refused to attend a meeting called by the leader of the house and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman today to discuss their 24-point charter of demand.

Leader of the opposition in parliament Asaduzzaman Khan told newsmen after a joint meeting of opposition parliamentarians that they had decided to boycott the opening day's session as they did not get any positive response on their demands from the president who he accused had been repeatedly trying to bypass demands. The meeting was attended by parliamentary leaders of the Awami League (Malek), Muslim League, JSD [Jatiyo Samutantril Dal], Islamic Democratic League and other small groups and parties.

The situation appears to have been complicated further because of a hartal (general strike) called for tomorrow by 10 opposition parties to protest against police firing inside a prison house in Rajshahi about a week back in which three prisoners were killed and many others, including jail guards and officials, were injured. The hartal from 0600 to 12 noon is likely to affect attendance in the parliament session, due to begin at 1000.

President Ziaur Rahman, in accordance with a constitutional provision, is scheduled to address the parliament tomorrow.

Ten parties which called for the hartal include the Awami League, the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh--CPE, the Nationalist Socialist Party--JSD, the breakaway faction of the Awami League led by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and the pro-Soviet National Awami Party--NAP, of Prof Muzaffar Ahmed.

Leaders of the ten parties in a joint statement have appealed to people to make the hartal a success and remain calm and peaceful in the face of any provocation. A number of rightist parties including the Muslim League and the Islamic Democratic League and the pro-Beijing communist parties are apparently maintaining neutrality on this strike call.

The government or ruling party BNP had not given any official reaction to the 10-party hartal call as yet. But newspapers quoted government and party leaders as saying they would oppose any attempt of violence and coercion by strikers during the hartal.

The largest circulated daily ITTEFAQ today prominently displayed a report saying if President Zia himself does not take the initiative today to overcome the present impasse, the new year's first parliament session may be without opposition members participating. It indicated that a dramatic move is likely to be taken today in respect of opposition charter of demands.

PRESIDENT ZIA ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT 9 FEBRUARY

BKD91010 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[Text] President Zia has said that the government is determined to insure peaceful completion of the process of revolution. This is the only way open to the nation for achieving economic self-reliance.

Addressing the inaugural sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] winter session in Dacca this morning, the president said a continuing review of the overall situation in the country has led to the decision that no solution to the accumulated problems is possible without a peaceful revolution. As a matter of fact, a revolutionary course in all aspects of national life, agricultural production, education, health, family planning, administrative system, law, labor and culture has become a must for all-round welfare of the people. He said the revolution has to be made successful through peaceful and democratic means and in cooperation with the parliament. The overwhelming participation of the people in it, he said, is the biggest indication that it is bound to succeed.

Giving an account of the first phase of the revolution aimed at doubling food production by the end of the second 5-year plan, the president said the second phase aiming at removing illiteracy will start on the historic day of Ekushey [21 February]. He said economic progress cannot be expedited unless the country is freed from the curse of illiteracy as soon as possible. The president called for all-out cooperation of all educated men and women of the country to make this program a success.

President Zia said the government has decided to give the highest priority to the population control program in the third phase of the revolution. Steps will be taken to make the family planning program a village-oriented one, to set up family welfare centers in the rural areas and to make adequate services and supplies available to the people.

President Zia said the second 5-year plan has been prepared keeping this objective in view. He said some of the main aims and priorities of the plan are doubling food production in the next 5 years, rapid increase in industrial production, manpower development and creation of employment opportunities, introduction of universal, compulsory, free primary and mass education, encouragement to technical and vocational education, strengthening of basic medical facilities at rural level, decentralization of planning and implementation, expansion of the cooperative system and rapid development of the communication system.

The president also declared that further urgent and effective steps have been taken to decentralize administrative machinery and to make it people-oriented. He said the government was actively considering the formulation of a proper labor policy in the overall interest of the country. The government is also fully alive to the need for maintaining law and order and is continuing its sincere efforts for the overall improvement of the law and order situation, he added.

Giving details of the main foreign policy objectives and achievements during the last 1 year, President Zia said the country's foreign policy will continue to be guided by its commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, nonalignment and the organization of the Islamic Conference. He said it will be our constant endeavor to pursue an independent, balanced, constructive and forward-looking foreign policy in serving the political and economic interests of the nation and the cause of global peace, freedom and progress.

General Strike in Effect

HK091001 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 9 Feb 80 HK

[Text] Dacca, 9 Feb (AFP)--Complete hartal (general strike) was observed in Dacca today in response to a call by ten opposition parties and first reports said one young man succumbed to bullet injuries in hospital following clashes between violent mobs and police.

While Dacca streets remain completely under control of street urchins and pedestrians during the six-hour hartal till midday, a number of incidents involving clashes between armed police and mobs were reported from different parts of the capital. Police had to resort to firings and teargas at a number of places this morning including Guistan, Azimur and Sadar Ghat to disperse demonstrations.

Hospital sources said that one young man died after he was brought from Azimpur government colony area. A number of injured persons were also brought to hospital from Azimpur which has been the scene of clashes since the morning.

Leaders of ten parties including Awami League, JSD [Yatiyd Samjtantril Dal] and CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] brought out processions through crowded streets chanting slogans "Down With Zia Regime." Some processionists were seen carrying a blood-stained cloth and claiming that it belonged to the young man killed in [passage indistinct].

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh parliament went into its new year session this morning half an hour behind schedule with all opposition members boycotting the session.

Quickly placed picketings were organised in different city areas including Farm Gate which leads to parliament house. Police fired teargas shells a number of times in Farm Gate to disperse the crowd blocking the way of the ministers, cars and other vehicles.

Opposition Accused of Conspiracy

HK091013 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 9 Feb 80 HK

[Text] In a brief to the house [parliament], the prime minister and the leader of the house, Shah Azizur Rahman, said there had been an encroachment on the rights of members of the house by the martial [strike] call today by the opposition.

He said they tried to create a reign of terror and rule of violence by damaging public property, beating up innocent people and police and preventing several members from attending the assembly session. He said they have damaged cars and brickbatted other vehicles and hijacked a police official.

He said their call for hartal today when the assembly is meeting, is a part of a deep rooted conspiracy to undo the democratic process steered by President Ziaur Rahman. He said their motive is to impose a one party system of government by resorting to chaos and indiscipline. He declared that we will meet the challenge and undo the conspiracy with the active cooperation of the people.

The opposition and independent members did not take part in today's proceedings. The house later adjourned to meet again on Wednesday.

Rioting Reported

HK091755 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Feb 80 HK

[Text] A hartal [strike] call was given by 15 political parties in Dacca today to protest against the disturbances inside Rashahi jail on the 31st of last month. A press note issued in Dacca tonight said the organizers of the hartal posted pickets at various points all over the city since yesterday evening.

The pressnote said the rowdy elements provoked by the organizers started throwing [fire] crackers and acid bottles and (?were trying) to create panic and alarm the people in the city. They put up barricades in the roads and deflated tires of rickshaws and vehicles which were coming out on the road since early this morning. They tried to brought out processions on roads and prohibit the city's trade. [as heard] Wherever the police tried to remove the barricade they turned violent, brickbatted the police and damaged public and private properties. They hindered the movements of vehicles and pedestrians and obstructed the law-enforcing agencies in the discharge of their duty. The hooligans, engaged by the strikers, attacked all types of transport and resorted to violence to force the shops to close down. They committed loot and arson, damaged a number of shops and restaurants, burnt 2 BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] buses, one at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and the other at (Palm Gate) and one microbus at Green Road. Besides, a number of BRTC buses and other government and private vehicles were also damaged. Fourteen bus drivers and other (?members) of the bus, too, were injured, two of them very seriously. One BRTC driver was forcibly dragged out and stabbed.

The press note further said during the rowdyism and hooliganism incidents of firing took place at two places in the city. In one incident one member of the public was shot dead by rowdy elements near Johnson Road, and the other incident took place at Ajampur area when the violent mob attacked a passenger bus carrying both men and women passengers. They defied repeated appeals from the police to disperse. Instead of complying with their request they brickbatted the bus heavily, and some amongst them, who carried arms, opened fire toward the police and ansars [civil militia] on duty. (?During the incident) when teargas and lathi [baton] charge failed to disperse and control the violently riotous mob, they had to resort to firing in self-defense.

The press note said in the encounter 18 police and ansars were injured. One member of the public was also killed. Some of the policemen were seriously injured. A police constable was kidnapped near the public library. The police had to use teargas at two other places.

Meanwhile, some prominent members of parliament belonging to the opposition who had earlier given a call to boycott the opening session of the parliament this morning, gave lead in the setting up of barricades at different places from Bangla Motor to (Palm Gate) in violation of prohibitory orders and obstructed vehicular movements in the airport road to prevent members of parliament from attending the opening session of parliament.

According to the press note 61 persons have been arrested so far on various charges and specific cases against them have been started. Government offices, banks and other organizations and most of the shops in the old city remained open. Attendance in government offices was normal.

AFP Account

BK101257 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] Dacca, 9 Feb (AFP)--Police today arrested 61 persons during a [number indistinct]-hour strike in which two persons died and over 50 were injured in violent clashes over were general strike called by opposition political parties. [sentence as received]

The strike by 15 opposition parties including the largest opposition party Awami League was to protest against a jail incident in northwestern Rajshahi town on January 31 in which three political convicts were killed.

A government announcement said tonight that during the strike 18 policemen and para-police force personnel were injured in encounters with violent mobs.

Later tonight a group of young men carrying sticks attacked the pro-Moscow Communist Party (CPS) office and set it on fire. The fire brigade and police rushed to the spot and controlled the fire.

INDIA

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT U.S. EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI

BK111049 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 11 Feb (AFP)--Iranian students today staged demonstrations before the U.S. Embassy and later at the American library on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Iranian Revolution.

The slogan-shouting students, numbering about 300, burnt the U.S. national flag before the embassy and effigies of President Carter and the deposed Iranian shah in front of the library. There were no other untoward incidents.

GROMYKO EXPECTED TO HOLD TALKS WITH PREMIER 12 FEB

BK101243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko is leaving Tashkent tomorrow for New Delhi to have talks with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi. The talks are expected to begin on Tuesday [12 February].

UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], quoting official sources in Moscow, says Gromyko will apprise Mrs Gandhi of his country's views on the current international situation, especially the developments in Afghanistan and the proposed U.S. military aid to Pakistan. He will also ascertain India's assessment of the situation.

Gromyko will be carrying special messages to Mrs Gandhi from Soviet President Brezhnev and Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin. The agency adds that Gromyko is likely to assure India of his country's support in dealing with any situation arising out of the American and Chinese military aid to Pakistan.

Gromyko Visit Itinerary

BK111300 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1235 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Gromyko will begin his talks with Indian leaders immediately after his arrival in New Delhi tomorrow evening.

Mr Gromyko left Moscow for Tashkent today on his way to New Delhi. He is accompanied by his wife and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Firyubin.

After a call on President Mr Sanjiva Reddy, Mr Gromyko will get down to detailed discussions with Foreign Minister Mr Narasimha Rao and later with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi.

While their talks will relate primarily to Afghanistan and recent developments in the region, they will also cover a general review of the international situation. The ALL INDIA RADIO correspondent says Mr Gromyko's visit, his first since the new government took over, assumed significance in the context of the events in this area. The officials of both sides will hold talks on Wednesday [13 February].

TALKS TO CONTINUE WITH PAKISTAN AT VARIOUS LEVELS

BK081632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to continue their discussions at various levels. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that during the recent discussions in Islamabad both sides have agreed to continue talks at appropriate levels. The foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, today reported to the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, about his discussions in Islamabad. Official sources consider Mr Sathe's visit to Islamabad useful despite differences between the two countries in perceptions about the recent developments in Afghanistan. They are considered useful, because the link in the dialog between the two sides continues unbroken. The talks were considered important as it gave an opportunity to India to inform Pakistan at the highest level that it is not insensitive to Pakistan's concern and anxiety about its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that India will convey its views on the recent developments in Afghanistan in all its bilateral discussions with neighboring countries including the Soviet Union. In this regard, there is no deviation from the stand taken in the Indo-French joint declaration issued during the visit of the French president to this country.

When pointed out that the Kashmir issue is being mentioned by Pakistan at international forums despite the Simla Agreement to settle issues bilaterally, the spokesman said that they had pointed out the deviation to the Pakistani side. He added, both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to the Simla Agreement.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN'S KARMAL

BK111306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Mr S.K. Singh, additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, who had gone to Kabul for talks with Afghan leaders, returned to New Delhi this afternoon. He had a cordial and frank talks while in Kabul including a meeting with President Mr Babrak Karmal.

An official spokesman in New Delhi said today that there is at present no regional plan to defuse the crisis (?created) following the developments in Afghanistan. India is in the process of several initiatives, and consultations it had undertaken with different countries are a part of it. The objective is to defuse the situation by reaching the maximum possible agreement without imposing any country's views on another.

ABOUT 16 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL TO BE IMPORTED

BK101640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] About 16 million tons of crude oil and six million tons of petroleum products are proposed to be imported this year. They include highspeed diesel, kerosene and fuel oil. The total import bill for the crude and petroleum products during this year is expected to reach 50 billion rupees as against 38 billion rupees last year. The additional burden for the country because of the import is likely to be over 15 billion rupees.

Of the total import, six million tons will be from Iraq, 2.6 million tons from Iran, 2.5 million tons from Saudi Arabia, and 1.5 million tons each from the Soviet Union and United Arab Emirates. Besides, crude will also be imported from Nigeria, Venezuela and Mexico. Indigenous production of crude is expected to be around 14.5 million tons during 1980-81.

JANATA, LOK DAL LEADERS CRITICIZE GANDHI'S NARAINPUR VISIT

BKD81631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Lok Dal and the Janata Party leaders in separate statements have alleged that Mrs Gandhi's visit to Narainpur village in Uttar Pradesh was undertaken for political purposes.

In a talk with newsmen in New Delhi, the Lok Dal president described Mrs Gandhi's comment on the state's handling of the incident as a misstatement of facts. He pointed out that a state minister had gone to the spot at the instance of the chief minister, Mr Banarsi Das. The Lok Dal vice president, Mr Raj Varain, visited Narainpur before Mrs Gandhi went there.

The Janata Party general secretary, Mr Nanaaji Deshmukh, alleged that Mrs Gandhi's visit to Narainpur is a part of the Congress-I strategy to malign the state government and to dislodge it on the one pretext or the other.

Making a statement in the Uttar Pradesh assembly, the chief minister refuted the prime minister's observation that the state government had tried to hush up the Narainpur incidents. However, he admitted that the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] and the superintendent of police did not give timely intimation to the state government regarding the episode and it came to light only through a Hindi daily.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Banarsi Das alleged that the prime minister is threatening the dissolution of the assembly only to encourage defections. He also released the text of his letter to the president in which he complained that the Congress-I is taking the issue of dissolution of assemblies by this (?case).

UP Minister Refutation

BK081312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Banarsi Das, has refuted the observation of the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, that the state government had tried to hush up the Narainpur incident. Making a statement in the state assembly today on the question of propriety raised by a Lok Dal member, Mr Das said Mrs Gandhi's remark is far from truth. The chief minister alleged that Mrs Gandhi was trying to find an excuse for the dissolution of the house. He admitted that the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] and the superintendent of police did not give timely intimation to the state government regarding the episode and the incident came to light only through a Hindi daily.

Further Comments

BK100434 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Banarsi Das, has said there is no denying that the police committed excesses at Narainpur village, Deoria District, on the 14th of last month. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow after a visit to the village, he said, however, no women of the village informed him of criminal assault. He has ordered that all the cases against the villagers should be withdrawn.

Mr Banarsi Das said he would meet the president to explain his point of view that there is no need to dissolve the assembly.

PAKISTAN

PAPER SAYS \$2.2 BILLION IN AID PROMISED BY MAY

BK081326 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 8 Feb (AFP)--Pakistan will receive \$2.2 billion worth of economic aid from abroad between now and the end of May, the newspaper THE MUSLIM said here today. This money would enable Pakistan to mount a substantial development campaign in the financial year 1980-81, the paper said. Of the total, some \$1.5 billion would come from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a new U.S.-inspired Pakistan aid consortium.

The paper also said the IMF wanted Pakistan to devalue its currency, but the authorities here were against this in the light of an appreciable rise in exports.

Saudi Arabia has offered a \$700 million loan and is prepared to provide collateral for short-term bank loans this country contracted last year at 18 percent interest, the paper said.

It further reported that Japan and other Western countries had agreed to a 5-year rescheduling of short-term debt totalling \$250 million.

Pakistan, which has a large balance of payments deficit, has found difficulty in obtaining Western long-term loans and donations in recent years, this being attributed to suspicions that Pakistan wants to make atom bombs. At the end of November last, Pakistan had only 2 weeks currency reserves, according to one diplomatic source here.

President Ziaul Haq recently advanced an unofficial figure of \$2 billion as Pakistan's immediate aid requirement. A U.S. offer of \$400 million was "peanuts," he remarked. The president has also privately affirmed that India is to get \$2 billion in aid from the Soviet Union.

BALUCHISTAN LOCAL COUNCILLORS MEETING REPORTED

BK090244 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] A 2-day convention of the councillors of local bodies and tribal notables of Baluchistan was inaugurated by the provincial governor, Lt Gen Rahimuddin Khan, in Sibi today. The governor underlined the need for national cohesion to meet the challenge posed to the country. He said despite the limited resources of the country, the people were determined to preserve their independence. He assured the people that the government was fully alive to the present situation and there was no cause for any alarm. He called upon the councillors and the tribal elders to serve the country and the people and fulfill their obligation to their homeland and the ideology of Islam.

Later, on, being invited by the governor to present their viewpoint on problems, the tribal elders demanded that the development funds should be diverted to the strengthening of the defense of the country in view of the great threat posed to it following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They declared that the tribesmen were determined to make the supreme sacrifice for the defense of their motherland and the preservation of the Islamic ideology. The governor assured them that the government was taking necessary steps for strengthening the defenses of the country.

The tribal elders also drew the attention of the governor to the mischievous propaganda by foreign media about the people of Baluchistan and said whether they were Baluchis or Pathans, they were as patriotic as any other Pakistani and had a firm belief in Islam.

The governor assured them that such propaganda was not only dishonest but also an attempt at creating disunity among the people of Baluchistan. He said he had asked the foreign journalists to come to Pakistan and visit the province to see for themselves that the people of Baluchistan were determined to make the supreme sacrifice for their country and Islam.

Haq Calls for Soviet Withdrawal

BK090838 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that foreign forces should immediately and totally withdraw from Afghanistan so that its people could live their lives individually and collectively according to their wishes and beliefs.

Addressing the concluding session of a 2-day convention of the councillors of local bodies and tribal notables in Sibi today, the president said the situation on our western frontiers had completely changed.

He said Afghanistan had not only lost its independence and neutrality, its Islamic character had also been endangered. The present government of Afghanistan did not enjoy the support and confidence of the Afghan people because it had been imposed on the Afghan people by a foreign power. The Afghan people were struggling hard to preserve their Islamic traditions and beliefs. This had caused immense hardships in their lives as a result of which a great number of them had been forced to take shelter in Pakistan. Their number had now exceeded 500,000.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan desired that the Afghan refugees should go back to their homes with honor and dignity, but this would be possible only when conditions conducive for their return are created so that they could live their lives according to their religious beliefs. For that it was necessary that foreign forces should immediately withdraw from Afghanistan.

Details of the president's address are awaited.

Earlier, talking to newsmen on his arrival in Sibi, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said press reports about the possibility of joint defense with India were mere speculation. He said everyone was aware of the background of such joint defenses. He said that the late Field Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan had proposed this. The president asked: "Join defense against whom?"

Further on Haq's Call

BK091031 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[Report on Pakistan President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's remarks at the concluding session of the convention of the councillors of local bodies and tribal notables in Sibi, Baluchistan Province on 9 February]

[Excerpt] The president referred to the strong reaction throughout the world to the situation and mentioned the UN General Assembly's resolution and the Islamabad declaration of the extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference condemning the Soviet intervention and calling for immediate withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. Envoys from almost [all] of the important countries of the world had visited Pakistan and exchanged views with him on the situation in the region.

The president made it clear that Pakistan had no aggressive designs against any country: We want to live in peace and friendship with all the countries, particularly our neighbors, we want that all countries, big or small, rich or poor, developing or developed, should have the right to lead their lives in accordance with their ideology without any foreign interference.

Earlier, the address of welcome presented by Mr (Timur Shah Jogzai) on behalf of the local bodies councillors and tribal chiefs and notables endorsed the internal and external policies of the government to meet the situation.

More Haq Comments

BK091705 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that all foreign troops should immediately withdraw from Afghanistan so that its people could live their lives individually and collectively according to their wishes and beliefs.

He said that according to the latest reports the Soviet troops, after consolidating their hold in Kabul, had spread over to other areas of Afghanistan and several of their units have arrived in Jalalabad and Spin Baldak.

The president said that taking care of Afghan refugees is not the responsibility of Pakistan or Islamic countries only, but rather the international community should also extend assistance in looking after the refugees, a large number of whom are old men, women and children. He said that world peace and security were in danger, as well as the security of Pakistan and the Islamic countries. He said so far as Pakistan was concerned, it was not alone but enjoyed the support of the entire world and of experienced and dependable friends. However, nations should rely upon their own morale, power and capabilities for their defense, he added.

He said Pakistan desired that people of all countries should have the right to live their lives according to their ideologies without any external intervention. Pakistan did not like to impose its own ideologies on others nor could it allow others to impose their ideology upon it.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the people of Baluchistan were part of a community of 75 million, fully united and prepared to offer any sacrifice for their country. He warned of elements who were disloyal and said that these elements, which existed in almost all countries, should be eliminated.

Referring to development efforts taken by the government for Baluchistan, the president said that the process of this development must not only be maintained but further be sped up.

Referring to local bodies, he said government policy was to strengthen these organizations so that the councillors could fulfill their responsibilities effectively in solving local problems. The president said the provincial governor was taking interest in rehabilitating those who were forced to flee to the hill country, because of the oppressive policies of the former government, and who later came back.

Earlier, on behalf of the councillors of local bodies and tribal leaders of eminent tribes, the government's policies in containing the situation were praised. They said that the Baluchistan people, like people of other parts of the country, will not hesitate to offer the greatest sacrifice when needed. The address stressed the need to develop the defense system of Pakistan so that no one would dare launch aggression against the country. The address was presented by Mr (Taimur Shah Jogzai).

On the second and last day of the convention today, eminent representatives of the tribes of Baluchistan expressed their determination to defend the integrity, security, independence and Islamic ideology of Pakistan. They reiterated that all the people of the province were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the defense of the beloved homeland.

NORTHWEST FRONTIER OFFICIAL CALLS FOR UNITY

BK091119 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Feb 80 EX

[Text] A 1 day provincial convention of chairmen and vice chairmen of the local councils was held in Peshawar this morning. The NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] governor, Lt Gen Fazle Haq, presided.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor stressed the need for forging greater national unity and integrity (?in the ranks) to meet effectively the danger confronting the Islamic world, particularly Pakistan. He said the foreign intervention in Afghanistan has generally pertrubed the whole Islamic world as it had endangered the peace of the region, the Islamic world and the world as a whole.

The convention was attended by over 500 chairman and vice chairmen of local bodies in the province.

KARACHI COMMENTATOR ON U.S. AID TO GOVERNMENT

BK101107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 9 Feb 80 BK

[News commentary by Mukhtar Zaman]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance stated the other day that Washington is reviewing the aid needs of Pakistan. Other countries are also associated in this review. Vance told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that Pakistan President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq wants to examine the total package of aid before deciding (?on his reaction).

Another important point that Vance made was an assurance of Pakistan's debts if necessary. Along with such assurances to Pakistan, Vance also hinted on the possibility of a sale of sophisticated military equipment to India. But he added that the sale of sophisticated military equipment to India is not related to the supply of weapons to Pakistan following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Vance's statement comes in the wake of the Brzezinski mission's recent visit to Pakistan.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who accompanied Brzezinski to Pakistan, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the discussions in Islambad focused on the U.S. commitment to Pakistan's security and territorial integrity. The importance of Pakistan has no doubt swept into prominence after the Soviet incursions in Afghanistan. This event, which came hot on the heels of the Iranian Revolution, has compelled the American policymakers to pause and ponder about the situation that is now developing in this region.

Everyone knows that military assistance to Pakistan was stopped after the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. Pakistan was still a member of the U.S.-sponsored military alliances and the U.S.-Pakistan military alliance of 1959 was still in force when Washington put a ban on arms aid to Pakistan. In this respect, Pakistan and India were treated at par. Economic aid was, however, continued. But recently, when Pakistan decided to continue its policy of nuclear research for peaceful economic purposes, the ax fell even on economic aid. This led to the cooling of relations between Islamabad and Washington, although the will to continue normal interstate relations was found in both countries.

The Soviet action in Afghanistan was seen as a destabilizing factor in the area. Washington felt the rising danger signals to American and Western interests. The Gulf states, the Middle East oil passage to the West, was threatened. Moscow was sitting right on top of the Gulf. Its huge armies were concentrated (?round the corner) while America was still far away. This [words indistinct] rethinking in Washington.

America has obviously decided to checkmate the Russian game. In this context Pakistan's importance is obvious. America would love to have a strong and well-armed Pakistan on its side. Hence, President Carter hastily took several steps. A high-level mission was dispatched to Islamabad under his national security adviser, Brzezinski. This was followed by the decision to send a larger mission, which will work out the details of Pakistan's requirements. And now we find no less a person than the U.S. secretary of state talking about the rescheduling of debts and package deals.

Pakistan is heavily indebted to the consortium countries and the World Bank. The (?United States) has been its most important and influential creditor. Repayment of debts, building of new industries, securing nuclear power are the major problems that Pakistan is facing on the economic scene. But Pakistan is now following an independent foreign policy. It does not wish to involve itself in the crossfire of superpower rivalry. It has no desire to go back to (?the 50's). [Words indistinct] aid by friends will be acceptable only on respectable and reasonable terms and in substantial quantities. That is why the government can look at the aid package only when its details and conditions are made known.

PRESIDENT HAQ ATTENDS RECEPTION FOR IRANIAN CHARGE

BK101741 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said the people of Pakistan will always stand by their Iranian brothers and will provide any help or assistance that may be required of them. He was speaking at a reception held by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Islamabad tonight in connection with the advent of the 15th century Hijra and the 1st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Paying tribute to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the president said everything which happened in the universe always happens with the will of God. But the will of God is intimated through some agency. In the case of Iran, he added, the Almighty chose Ayatollah Khomeyni to bring about the great revolution in the name of Islam. He said Ayatollah Khomeyni certainly deserves all praise as a great leader who has not only led the Iranian people toward an Islamic Revolution but has also taken it to a successful completion.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq hoped and prayed that the people of Iran would be able to stabilize their position, strengthen the Islamic Revolution in Iran from where it will generate those vibrations as are required elsewhere, particularly where Islam is not being considered the strong force that it ought to be. The president said Pakistan draws inspiration from Iran.

In Pakistan, he said, some of the laws have been Islamized. He, however, said that the pace of progress in this regard has been slower as compared to that in Iran. The president declared that one day, inshallah [God willing], the whole society of Pakistan will be governed totally by the values of Islam.

Referring to the Iranian Revolution, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said after going through different experiments the people of Iran eventually came on to the Islamic mode of life, and a similar process took place in Pakistan--a true revolution. He said what happened in Iran is certainly a matter of great satisfaction and admiration. But it was all achieved through imam [faith] and [word indistinct]. He said the people of Pakistan salute their Iranian brethren for their success in their revolution and also salute those who sacrificed their lives. He said the cause of their sacrifices will pave the way for greater successes and greater achievements for the people and the Government of Iran.

The president extended hearty felicitations to Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr on his election as the first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He hoped that Mr Bani-Sadr will be able to achieve and live up to the aspirations of the people of Iran and prove himself a successful president as the people of Iran expect him to be. The president also prayed for the long life and good health of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The Iranian charge d'affaires, Mr (Mohammed Bendezur), expressed his deep appreciation for the valuable support and sincere sentiments of the people of Pakistan toward their Iranian brethren.

Charge Statement

BK101642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Addressing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon in connection with the weeklong celebrations marking the advent of the 15th Islamic century and the first anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Iranian charge d'affaires said President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr will appoint a prime minister who will later select members of his cabinet. The cabinet will be approved by the Islamic assembly.

On behalf of the people of Iran the Iranian charge d'affaires thanked all Muslim countries and especially Pakistan for wholehearted support of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

OPPOSITION LEADER FILES LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST HAQ

BK100906 Hong Kong AFP in English 0043 GMT 10 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 10 Feb (AFP)--Retired Pakistani Air Marshal Asghar Khan, one of Pakistan's leading opposition figures, has filed a legal challenge to the constitutionality of President Ziaul Haq's regime.

The challenge, embodied in a 5,000-word affidavit filed with the Pakistani High Court at Lahore, marks the first public opposition to General Haq since Soviet entry into neighboring Afghanistan.

It charged General Haq with having restricted human rights, curtailed judicial power and outlawed political parties. It recalled that when the general overthrew Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in July 1977, his coup was only declared valid by the Supreme Court on the grounds that it was impossible to hold elections.

Elections have still not been held, the marshal said, and for this and the other reasons, the regime should be declared "void and of no legal effect." The affidavit, made available to foreign correspondents Saturday, then asked the court to name an interim government pending regular, democratic elections.

Marshal Asghar, like other opposition leaders, has been confined to his residence by the military regime since last October.

The marshal, who indicated he meant to speak for others in the (?opposition), accused General Haq with making "use of Islam as a cover for his personal ambitions" and with "having decided to undo the democratic institutions in the country." There lay the danger to the country, rather than in "any immediate external threat," the marshal concluded.

"My lords," he wrote, "in these momentous times when events of such far reaching importance are taking place in our region, to allow such a regime to continue in power for a day longer is to do this country and its present and future generations grave injustice."